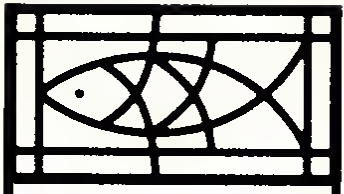


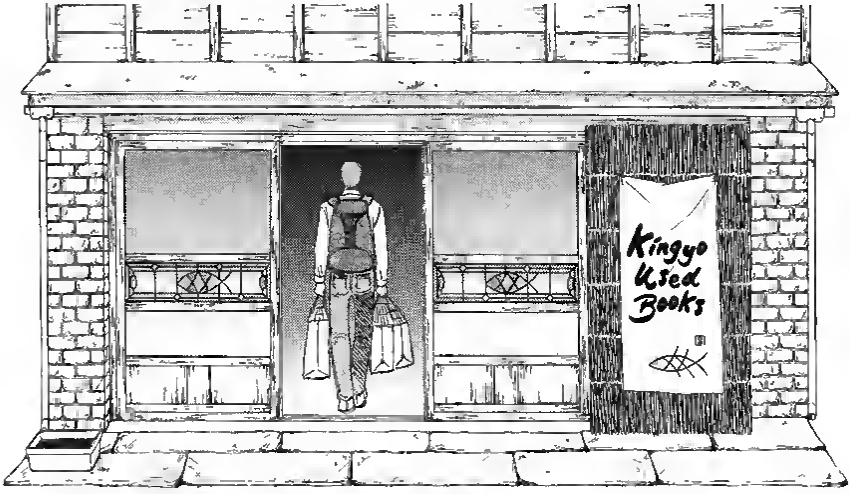
This manga bookstore has a thousand stories to tell.

4
Kingyo Used Books
Story & Art by
Seimu Yoshizaki

Kingyo Used Books

4

Seimu Yoshizaki



Kingyo Used Books 4

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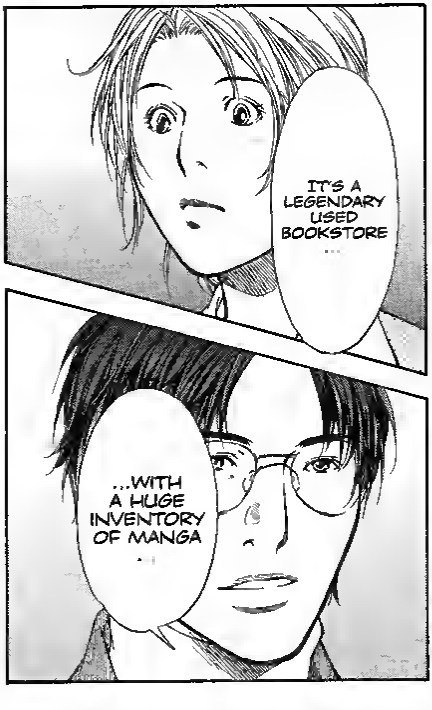
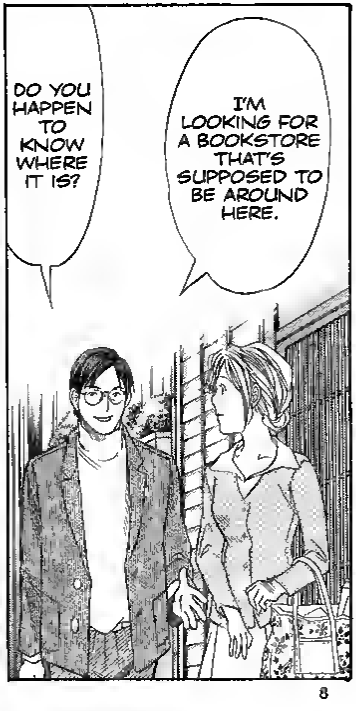
SLAM!!
THIS MANGA'S BORING!
SLAM
AND THIS ONE
...BORING!
SLAM
BOR-RING.
SLAM
BORING.
AWW...
...COME ON!
NONE OF THESE ARE ANY GOOD!
Chapter 22: Devil Power

ACTIVE ARES
UP TO STANDARD
YOU SAID I'D LIKE THESE MANGA.
YOU LIAR.
SO...
...WHERE'S THE MANGA FOR ME?
Chapter 22: Devil Power

AHEM ...
... CAN YOU HELP ME, PLEASE?


IT'S A LEGENDARY USED BOOKSTORE ...
...WITH A HUGE INVENTORY OF MANGA

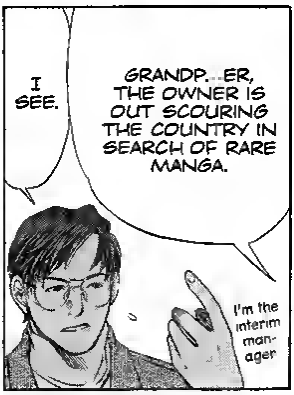

I'M LOOKING FOR A BOOKSTORE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE AROUND HERE.
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE IT IS?

"KINGYO"...?
OH, YOU MEAN KINGYO USED BOOKS
USED BOOKS
ODD NAME, ISN'T IT?
TURN LEFT AT THE CORNER, FOLLOW THE ROAD ALONG THE RIVER, AND IT'LL BE ON YOUR RIGHT.
OH.
LOOK FOR THE STAINED-GLASS GOLDFISH ON THE DOOR.
IT'S A QUAINT LITTLE STORE.
HUH?
YOU MUST REALLY LIKE MANGA.
TO COME ALL THIS WAY LOOKING FOR KINGYO.
EVEN IF IT IS FAMOUS AMONG THOSE IN THE KNOW.
...
THE MANGA YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MUST BE VERY SPECIAL.

GANSO DAIYOJOHAN DAIMONOGATARI AKA ITSUKO ISHIDA BY LIBU MATSUMOTO GANSO WAS SERIALIZED IN AKITA SHOTEN'S SHOJO MANGA MAGAZINE HANA TO YUME AND SHONEN KUMA FROM '71. OYURURI MANTAMA NIKKI BY TAMAKICHI SAKURA BEGAN SERIALIZATION IN '04 AND STILL RUNNING IN COMIC BEAM. KOU YUMEJI'S YAWA WAS ORIGINALLY SERIALIZED FROM '96 BY YUKUSHIMA AKIRA IN KOUDANSHA'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE AFTERNOON. COMPLETE WORKS OF KOU YUMEJI VOL 16 FROM ICHI J INDIA.

STUDY!

IL BIOKO BISHO OKWA BIRAO NAI ISF. (% KEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE) A DRAMA SERIES ABOUT THE LIVES OF INTERSEXUALS BY CHIYO KOKUHANA SERIALIZED IN ONE MORE KISS FROM 2004. CURRENTLY SERIALIZED IN KODANSHA'S KISS.



WEL-COME.
..LIVING IN OUR BASE-MENT.
...BUT WE DO HAVE A MANGA TROLL...
WOW... SO THIS IS THE RUMORED MANGA DUNGEON
WHERE DOES IT END?
LOOKING FOR ANY-THING IN PARTICU-LAR?
I'M LOOKING FOR A GOOD MANGA.
HUH?
A BOY I TUTOR...
...HAS BEEN TRYING TO FIND A MANGA THAT INTERESTS HIM.

NO QUES-TION
I'M SURE WE DO.
...HE MIGHT LIKE?
DO YOU HAVE ANY-THING ..
BUT ..
GREAT, SO...
...YOU CAN'T HAVE IT.
I CAME ALL THIS WAY!
HUH? WHY?
I'M SORRY, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE.
WHAT?

Kingyo Used Books
SHIBA-SAN, DID YOU JUST CHASE AWAY A CUSTOMER?
WE HAVE A ZILLION BOOKS IN THE DUN-GEON!
YOU COULD'VE RECOM-MENDED PLENTY!
DO YOUR JOB, NAOAKI SHIBA!! EVERY SALE COUNTS!!
YOU'RE SO HARD ON ME, NATSUKI-SAN!
CHOKO
HMPH.
SO THIS IS KINGYO.
WHY, HELLO.
MY TUTOR SAID I'D FIND A MANGA I'D LIKE HERE.
IS THAT TRUE?
WEL-COME.

SHF
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO.
HAND IT OVER.
SO WHERE IS IT?
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
CHAKKA
HUH?
HOW DUMB ...
OH, THE "DUNGEON," RIGHT?
★ TAIYO MEANS 'SUN.'
And Taiyo Matsumoto.
I LOVE THE SUN.
WHAT A NICE DAY.
THIS GUY GETS ON MY NERVES.

C'MON OVER HERE.
MY TREAT.
UM, WHAT-EVER.
WH-
HUH?
SO...
...
WHAT'LL IT BE?
...
DOESN'T MATTER
DOUBLE BAR OKAY?
ALL RIGHT.
A MORINAGA ICE CREAM CUP OR A DOUBLE BAR?
WHAT-EVER'S GOOD.
WHICH WOULD YOU LIKE?

HURRY! BEFORE THE ICE CREAM MELTS!
HUH?
RACE YOU TO THE RIVER!!
ZOOOM
Excuse me!
YEAH.
...
YOU PROMISED TO FIND ME A MANGA I'D LIKE!
HEY!
THE DOUBLE BAR IS A TIMELESS CLASSIC!
PANT
PANT
HUFF
MAN, DOES THIS HIT THE SPOT!
NO ONE'S FORCING YOU.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE READING MANGA, THEN DON'T.
HUH?
Yum.
...CAN LIVE WITHOUT MANGA.
MOST PEOPLE...

I WANT TO READ MANGA!!
WAIT!
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
BETTER OFF NAPPING OUT HERE IN THE SUN.
RIP
ZZZ
SPISH
MINORU, MY BOY...
...THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO GET AHEAD IN THIS WORLD. SUCK UP TO THE PEOPLE IN POWER.
GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT.
WHAT YOU WANT DOESN'T MATTER.
DON'T FIGHT IT.
LOOK AT ME, DAD!

I HATE EVERY-THING.
THE SUN, THIS ICE CREAM...
NO ONE CARES WHAT I THINK ABOUT ANYTHING.
I WISH IT'D ALL JUST DISAP-PEAR!
MM?
ahhh
WHERE... AM I?
HEY.
OH, YOU'RE UP.
THIRSTY?
SENO
35
THP
THP
THP
WHAT-EVER
MILK DRINK OR RAMUNE SODA?
WHICH ONE?
...
MILK.

I'M GOING HOME.
MMM... GOOD.
ALL YOU'VE DONE IS DRAG ME AROUND TOWN BABBLING LIKE A CRAZY GUY!
WHAT'S WITH YOU, ANYWAY?
HMPH
WELL, GO AHEAD.
YEAH, BUT...
DIDN'T YOU WANT A MANGA?
NOPE.
FWSH!
SHOW ME WHERE IT IS! NOW!
WHERE'S THE STUPID DUNGEON?

I JUST CAME HERE TO READ A MANGA!!
YOU SELL MANGA HERE, DON'T YOU?
YOU'RE NOT READY ...
...FOR THE DUNGEON YET.
PICK ONE OUT YOURSELF.
TRY FINDING SOMETHING TO READ FROM THAT PILE.
PT
ARE THOSE ALL BOOKS YOU'RE RECOMMENDING?
NO, THOSE JUST HAPPENED TO COME IN TODAY.
THEY HAVEN'T BEEN SORTED YET.
THEN HOW DO I KNOW IF THEY'RE ANY GOOD?
YOU DON'T. YOU HAVE TO READ THEM TO FIND OUT.

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.. IS THIS MANGA ANY GOOD?
HEY ...
I GUESS THIS'LL DO.
HA!
HAH
A MANGA ABOUT A DEVIL?
DEVIL-MAN?
WHY DON'T YOU FIND OUT?
SHOO
Kingyo Used Books
HMMM.

PAF
WELL?
LIKE IT?
...
UH...
UM...
I DON'T KNOW

WELL?
DO YOU WANT THE MANGA... OR NOT?
I... I...
. . .GOTTA GO.
OOH
SENO
35
TMP
OOOO

THE YOUNG MASTER ISN'T HAVING ANY VISITORS TODAY.
IS HE ALL RIGHT?
HE'S IN BED WITH A FEVER.
YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE.
I SEE... I HOPE HE FEELS BETTER SOON.

YOU'RE SURE HE LIKED IT? WHEN HE RAN OUT OF HERE, HE LOOKED MORE FRIGHTENED THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
HE MAY NEVER TOUCH ANOTHER MANGA, MUCH LESS COME BACK HERE...
NAH.

...SO I FIGURED VIOLENCE JACK IS NEXT.
Just the beginning, since he's still young.
AND SHUTENDOJI.
OH, AND I PERSONALLY LIKE GAKUEN TAIKUTSU OTOKO.

STUDY!

ALL OF THESE MANGA ARE BY GO NAGAI. VIOLENCE JACK SERIALIZED IN *SHUUKAN SHOUNEN MAGAZINE* FROM 1973. A STORY OF A WORLD IN DECAY FOLLOWING A MASSIVE EARTHQUAKE. *SHUTENDOJI* SERIALIZED IN *SHUUKAN SHONEN H&G*, ZINE FROM 1974. THE STORY OF A DEMON BOY RAISED BY HUMAN PARENTS. *GAKUEN TAIKUTSU OTOKO* (THE MOST BORING GUY IN SCHOOL) SERIALIZED IN *BOKUKA MAGAZINE* FROM 1970. A VIOLENT ACTION MANGA REVOLVING AROUND C. MR. US UPRISINGS.

HE ASKED ME TO THANK YOU FOR INTRODUCING HIM TO KINGYO.
OH?
HE... THANKED ME?
THE YOUNG MASTER WENT OUT ON AN ERRAND.
NO MATTER HOW SPITEFUL HE ACTS...
...I CAN ALWAYS HEAR...
...FROM SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE.
NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN PUT UP WITH THAT BOY'S BRATTINESS.
YOU'RE AN ODD ONE.
...A FAINT BUT CLEAR...
...CRY FOR HELP.
AND I JUST CAN'T IGNORE IT.
OH...

THESE PAGES.
ARE FILLED WITH GRUESOME VIOLENCE
AND TERROR
SO WHY DO THEY HAVE THE POWER TO INSPIRE US TO LIVE?
HFF
HFF
WE KNOW THESE DARK FANTASIES ARE WRONG
...BUT THEY DRAW US
FANTASY ISN'T THE SAME AS REALITY.
BE-SIDES
...HE NEVER REALLY LOST HIS LOVE FOR THE WORLD.
YEAH.
THAT'S WHY THIS MANGA...
...IS SO TIME-LESS.

THE BOOK FROM THE OTHER DAY
THE
HIT
HIT
CH
A
K
I'LL TAKE IT.
WEL-COME.
Kinggo Used Books

Bonus Image. JKKJ January 2007 cover

Chapter 23: A Man Ahead of His Time

...ABOUT MY BOND WITH A CERTAIN MAN.
OKA-DOME!!
OKA-DOME.
LET ME TELL YOU A STORY...
...A MAN AHEAD OF HIS TIME.
KUNI-MOTO WAS..
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG!

KUNI-MOTO?
RRRRRR
FANCY BUMPING INTO YOU HERE!
WHAT'S IT BEEN? TEN? TWENTY YEARS?
SORRY, THAT'S MY PHONE.
RRRR
YOU IN A HURRY?
FOR YOU I CAN WAIT.
HELLO?
...OH, TAKA-SHI.
LISTEN, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF..
A PARTY?
THAT ISN'T NECES-SARY.
LOOK, I'LL CALL YOU LATER.
YOUR SON?
YEAH.
WHAT ARE YOU CELEBRAT-ING?
TURNING 60.
WHO?
ME.

WE'RE THE SAME AGE, KUNIMOTO!
ARE YOU REALLY THAT OLD, MAN?
YOU, OKA-DOME?
WAHA—
—A!
YOU'RE 60?
AND YOUR SON WANTS TO CELEBRATE. THAT'S GREAT.
YEAH.
DID YOU JUST HANG IT UP AS A GOVERNMENT MAN?
KEEP LAUGHING
HEE HEE HEE
BUT YOU...
OH YEAH.
AGAIN?
WHERE? DADDY GOOSE?
...NEAR CAMPUS.
LET'S GO TO THE CAFÉ...
GOOD FOR YOU.

daddy goose
DADDY GOOSE.
RAHHH...
WE'LL FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN!

FORTY YEARS AGO...
...KUNIMOTO HAD A BIT OF A DANGEROUS STREAK.
BAR-TEND-ER
.. PUT ON SOME BILL EVANS, WILL YA?
SURE
OKA-DOME?
HOW ABOUT HELEN MERRILL WITH CLIFFORD BROWN?
KUNI-MOTO
WHAT?
YOUR CLOTHES REEK OF TEAR GAS.
REALLY?
EH...IT'S NOT LIKE I'M NOT HERE TO SEE A GIRL.
OH, THERE'S A GIRL?
♩♫

ACTUALLY, I CAME HERE TO SEE YOU...
...OKA-DOME.
OH?
I'M A BETTER FIGHTER.
I'M STRONGER WHEN I'M AROUND YOU.
YOU HAVE TO FIGHT WITH ME.
WITH YOU BY MY SIDE I CAN'T LOSE.
HE RUSHED HEAD-LONG ...
...INTO ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER.
C'MON.
JOIN THE CAUSE AND HELP ME FIGHT...

RAHAHA
夢のトライグリーニング
たけひこ
THIS WAR.
NOW WHAT'S OUR PLAN OF ATTACK?
KUNIMOTO WAS, BY NATURE, A PARADOX.
HE WAS ONLY AT PEACE IN THE THICK OF DANGER.
KUNIMOTO!!
KUNIMOTO!

...AND OTHER STUDENTS WERE DRAWN TO HIS DEVIL-MAY-CARE ATTITUDE.
HE WAS ALWAYS THE FIRST INTO THE FRAY...
HYUN
N
GO AFTER THE RIOT POLICE!
OWWW!
YOU ALL RIGHT?
CHOK
HRGH!
SO THIS IS WAR!
READY THE ROCKS!

ATTACK!!
GO!!
OR IS IT?
THE LINE'S WEAKENING!
BREAK THROUGH!
KUNIMOTO!!
KUNI-MO-TO...
OKA-DOME.

THIS IS YOUR BATTLE ...
...NOT MINE.
I BELIEVE IN THE STRUGGLE TOO.
BUT I CAN'T GO ALONG WITH YOUR METHODS.
IT'S NOT JUST THAT.
IT'S THE WAY YOU LIVE.
THINK ABOUT IT, KUNIMOTO!
THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY TO ADVANCE OUR CAUSE WITHOUT HURTING PEOPLE!
YOU'RE TOO MUCH OF AN IDEALIST!
THAT KIND OF NAIVE THINKING WILL GET YOU NOWHERE!
IT'S NOT THE WAY TO WIN!
WHAT IS WINNING ...
.. AND LOSING, ANYWAY?

YOU WON'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT.
..EVEN IF YOU BEAT EVERYONE IN THIS WORLD...
IF YOU BEAT ME OR ANYONE ELSE..
...YOU WON'T HAVE WON ANYTHING.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, RUNNING AWAY FROM THE FIGHT BEFORE IT EVEN STARTS?
WHAT ARE YOU LEFT WITH?
...
WHO KNOWS?

RAHH
HH
...OKA-DOME?
WHY CAN'T YOU UNDER-STAND ...
...KUNI-MOTO.
SORRY ...
Ha ha ha...
MY DAUGHTER'S APPLYING TO COLLEGES.
OF MUCH MILDER STRUG-GLES
SINCE THEN, MY LIFE'S BEEN FULL...

THAT SOUNDS NICE.
LATELY I'VE TAKEN UP GARDENING
..UH, NO
SOMETHING THE MATTER, OKADOME-SAN?
I WONDER IF KUNIMOTO IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, STILL FIGHTING HIS BLOODY BATTLES.
THEY'RE PLAYING BILL EVANS.
OKADOME!
HEY THERE!

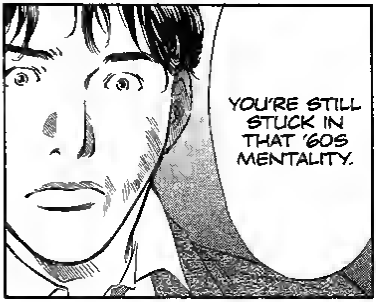
APPARENTLY SO.
HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
I'M DOING GREAT.
YEAH, YOU LOOK FANTASTIC.
RELIEVED TO SEE ME?
WHAT WERE YOU FIGHTING OVER THIS TIME?
I'M HAVING TROUBLE PAYING OFF...
...THE LOAN ON MY CAFÉ.
daddy goose
NO, THIS WAS TEN YEARS AGO.
HUH?
FIRST I TRIED ADDING SOME VIDEO GAMES TO THE PLACE ...
A LITTLE BEHIND THE TIMES, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
THEY DIDN'T CATCH ON.
I HAD TO HOCK 'EM
RIGHT AFTER THAT, THE SPACE INVADERS CRAZE TOOK OFF.

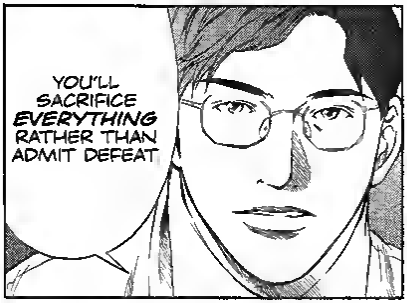
DIDN'T CATCH ON AT THE TIME. I'M UP TO MY EARS IN DEBT.
IS THAT WHAT IT'S CALLED NOW?
YOU MEAN KARA-OKE?
. TO RE-CORDED MUSIC AT THE CAFÉ
THEN I SET IT UP SO PEOPLE COULD SING ALONG
I REALLY THOUGHT I WAS ON TO SOME-THING.
THAT'S RIGHT
I ALWAYS FELT..
...KUNIMOTO WAS A MAN AHEAD OF HIS TIME
ALWAYS JUMPING THE GUN
BETWEEN NOSTALGIA AND PROGRESS.
BY THE WAY...
IS THIS YOURS?
OH YEAH.
IT'S A MANGA I JUST BOUGHT.
ACTION COMICS
はもう
矢作俊彦
大友克洋

GOOD, IT'S NOT DAM-AGED.
KIBUN WA MO?
THE FULL TITLE IS..
KIBUN WA MO SENSO. "IN THE MOOD FOR WAR."
気分はもう
ACTION COMICS
LOOK AT THE QUALITY, OKADOME.
JUST YOU WAIT! THERE'S AN INTER-NATIONAL MANGA CRAZE AROUND THE CORNER!
HUH?
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE GLOBAL MARKET!
NOT JUST ASIA, EITHER. SOON THE AMERICANS AND THE FRENCH...
..WILL GO WILD FOR THE RICH CUL-TURE OF JAPANESE MANGA.
NO!
I'M DONE LOSING, OKA-DOME.
I FEEL LIKE I'M "IN THE MOOD FOR WAR."

YOU'RE ALWAYS AT WAR, NO MATTER WHAT.
IN THE MOOD FOR WAR?
ARE YOU KIDDING?

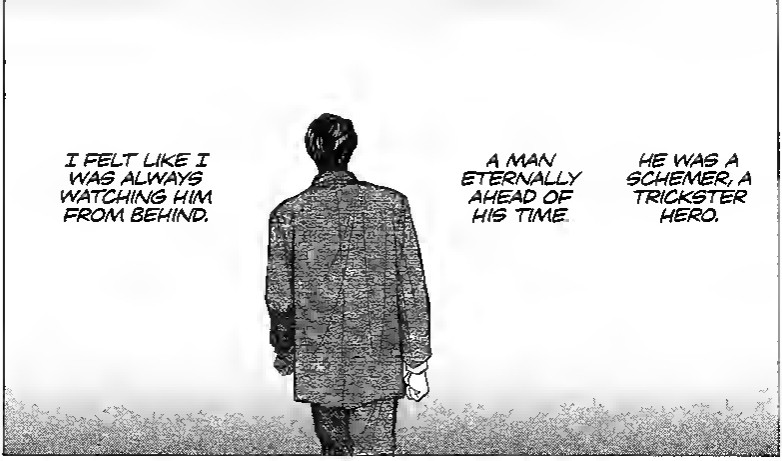
KUNI-MOTO
...ALL THESE YEARS...
...YOU'VE BEEN...
FIGHT-ING
...THE SAME ENDLESS WAR.


YOU'RE STILL STUCK IN THAT '60S MENTALITY.


YOU'LL SACRIFICE EVERYTHING RATHER THAN ADMIT DEFEAT

I KNOW YOU, OKADOME.
STILL ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY
...I SEE YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.
THE WAY YOU TALK...

AND DROP OUT OF MY LIFE AGAIN.
YOU'RE GOING TO SMILE THAT INFURIATING SMILE.
NOT QUITE.
NO...
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME?
YOU WON'T GO IN WITH ME.
YOUR WAR..
. HAS NO PLACE FOR A MAN LIKE ME.



...ANOTHER SPRING...

SPRING CAME AND WENT...

...ONLY TO CRAWL TO HIS FEET AGAIN.

WATCHING HIM RUN TOO FAST AND STUMBLE ...

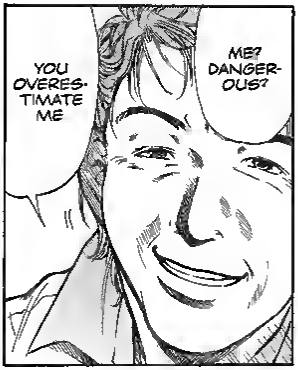
...ANOTHER

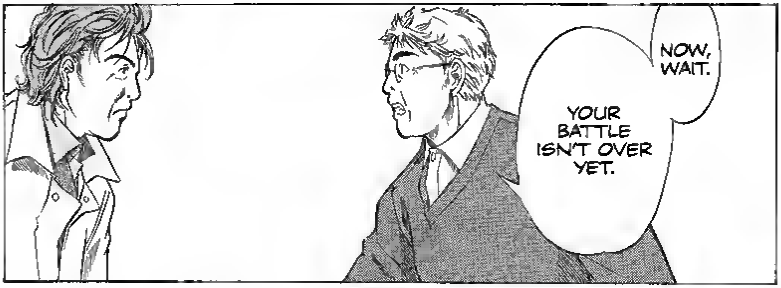
...AND THEN...

daddy goose
I TRIED AN EARLY INCARNATION OF A MANGA CAFÉ, BUT IT DIDN'T PAN OUT.
I DO ALL RIGHT NOW OVERSEEING MANGA TRANSLATIONS FOR THE OVERSEAS MARKET.
BAR-TEND-ER!
NEARLY PAID OFF MY MORTGAGE
I'M GETTING BY.
YOU?
REMEM-BER THIS MANGA ...
...OKA-DOME?
PLAY US SOME BILL EVANS.

気分はもう
矢作俊彦
大友克洋
WHAT YOU SAID THAT LAST TIME STUCK WITH ME.
I'VE BEEN CARRYING THIS AROUND WITH ME EVER SINCE
NOT THAT I'M ALWAYS READING IT.
BUT ...
..MY FEELINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED.
I STILL HAVE THAT FIRE.
STILL A DANGEROUS ONE, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT?
LIKE A YAKUZA HIDING A KNIFE IN HIS POCKET
..YOU'RE ARMED WITH THIS MANGA..
..PREPARED TO SURVIVE THE CHANGING TIMES.

EVERY DAY MAKES ME TREMBLE WITH UNCERTAINTY.
I'M JUST A GARDEN-VARIETY LOSER.

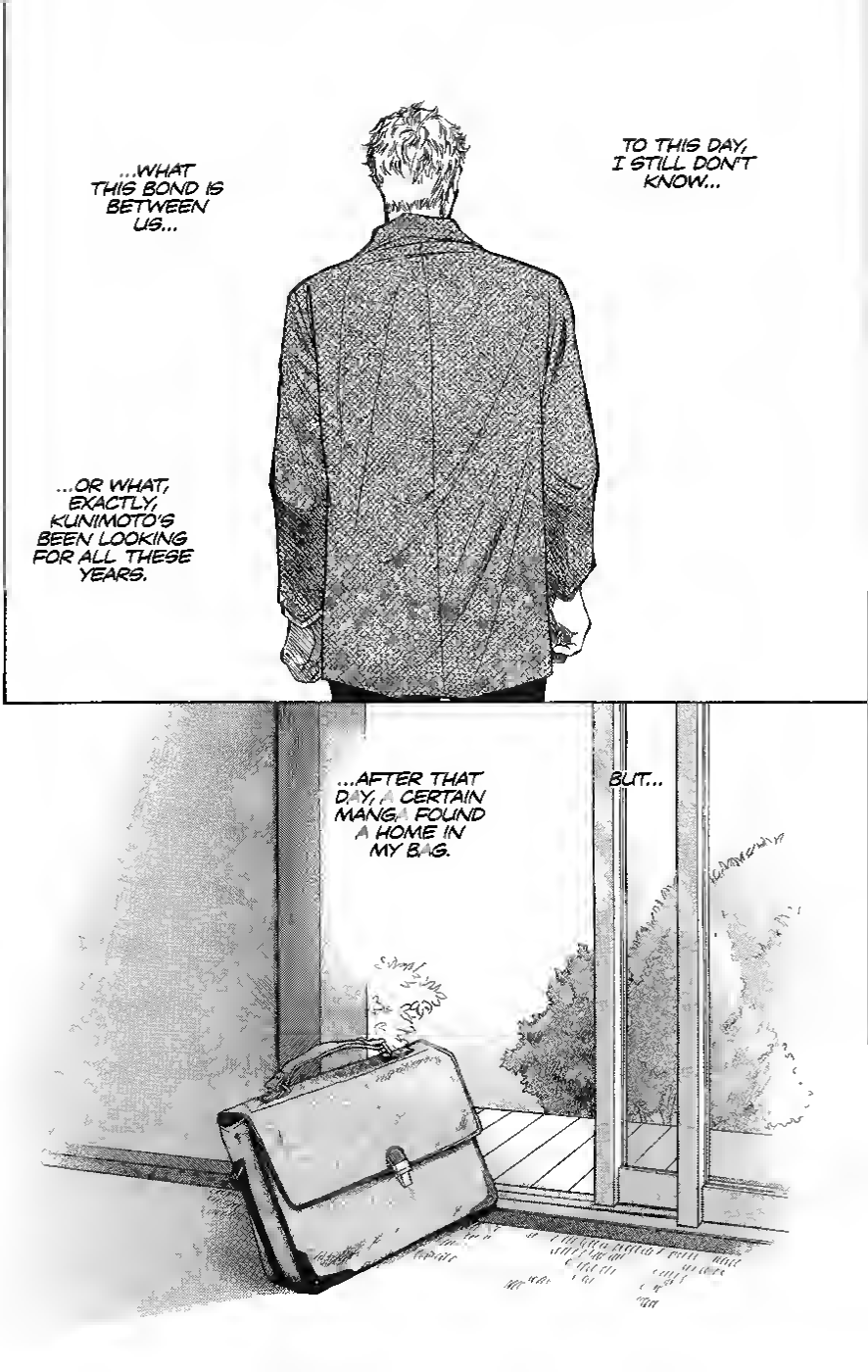

YOU OVERES-TIMATE ME
ME? DANGER-OUS?


NOW, WAIT.
YOUR BATTLE ISN'T OVER YET.

..IF YOU STILL BELIEVE YOU'RE STRONGER WITH ME AROUND..
...EVEN IF I CAN'T FIGHT WITH YOU...
...YOU CAN CALL ME ANY TIME.

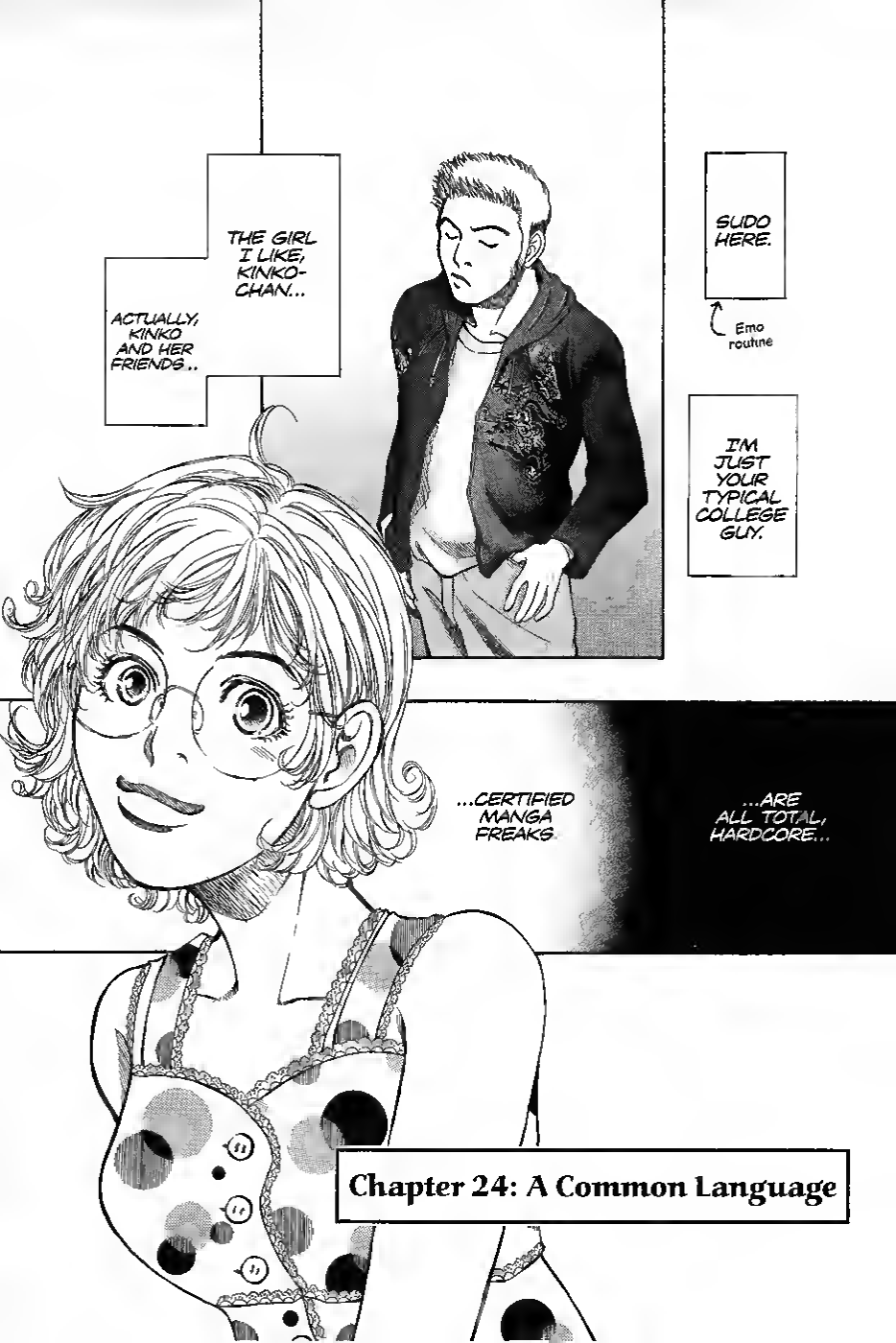
I MAY NOT HAVE ANY BUSINESS TELLING YOU THIS NOW, BUT...
LISTEN, KUNI-MOTO.

HEY
ANY TIME
THAT'S A PROMISE
EVER NOTICE, OKA-DOME?
YOU ALWAYS FIRE ME UP
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT YOURSELF
THAT'S THE WAY YOU FIGHT.
SAYING THIS, KUNIMOTO LET OUT A BELLY LAUGH.
HA HA HA HA
I COULDN'T HELP BUT BLUSH
YOU COWARD!


...WHAT THIS BOND IS BETWEEN US...
TO THIS DAY, I STILL DON'T KNOW...
...OR WHAT, EXACTLY, KUNIMOTO'S BEEN LOOKING FOR ALL THESE YEARS.
...AFTER THAT DAY, A CERTAIN MANGA FOUND A HOME IN MY BAG.
BUT...

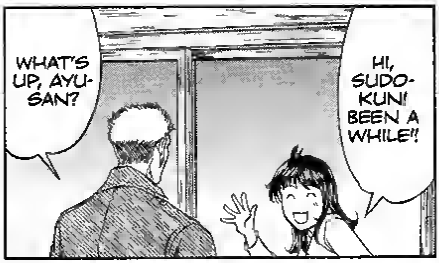
THEY SAY LOVE IS A MANY-SPLENDORED THING.
WHATEVER THE HECK THAT MEANS.
SUDO!!
HEY, SUDO!
Chapter 24: A Common Language
WHAT PARTY?
WANNA GO TO A PARTY THIS SATURDAY?
HUH?
MMM...
IT'S A BABE-FEST OVER THERE!
I MADE A CONNECTION AT KAWAHAMA WOMEN'S COLLEGE
SORRY, I'LL PASS.
THERE'S THIS GIRL..

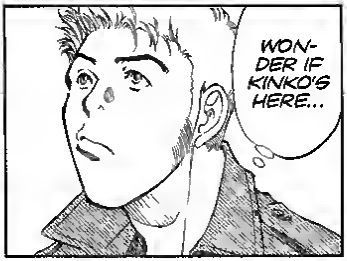
HEY!
REALLY?
YOU? A GIRL-FRIEND?
PING
OH YEAH!!
HEY..
YOU'RE HUNG UP ON THAT WEIRD MANGA CHICK!!
SHE'S A REGULAR AT THAT RUN-DOWN OLD BOOK-STORE. KINGYO SOME-THING.
ER..
KINKO-CHAN, RIGHT?
HOW'S THAT GOING?
WELL... UH... NOT GREAT.
OH YEAH?
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOU.
YOU USUALLY COME ON STRONG.
WHAT'S UP?
I DUNNO
WE JUST CAN'T SEEM TO FIND A COMMON LANGUAGE ...

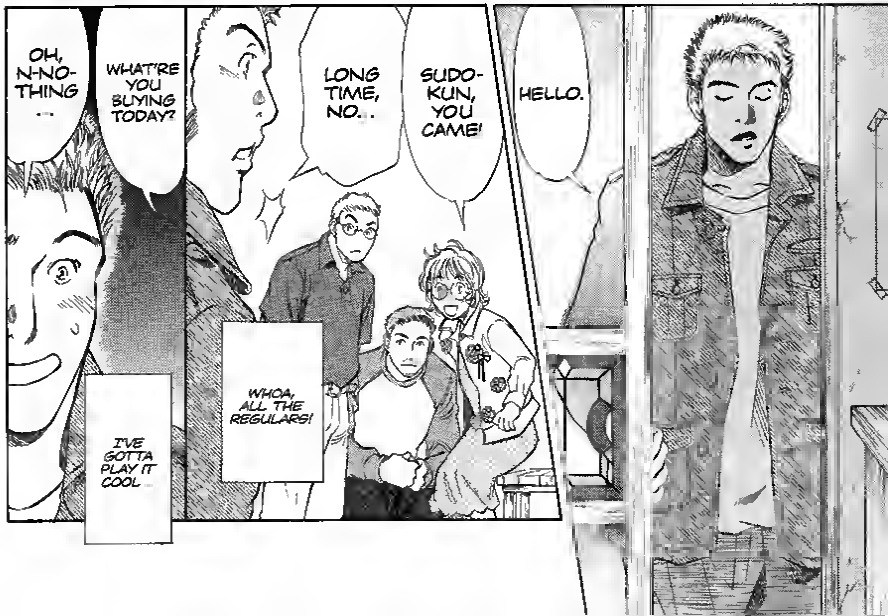


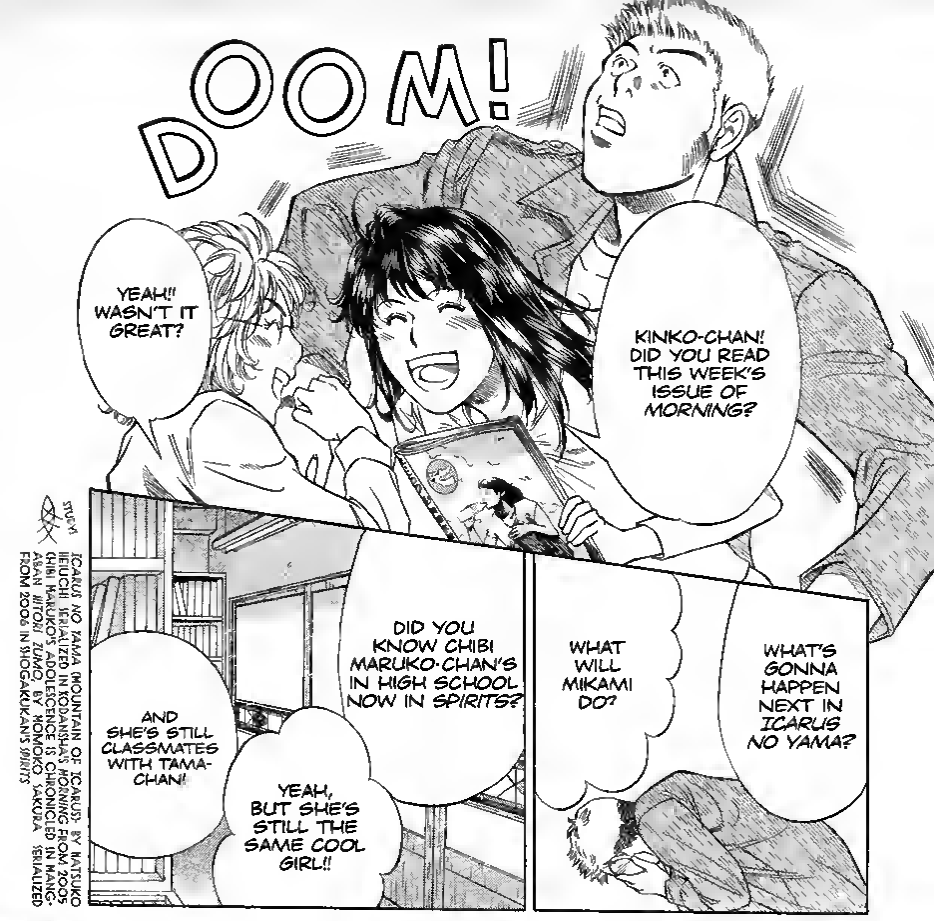
Chapter 24: A Common Language

Kingyo Used Books
I MEAN, I DON'T HATE IT.
DON'T GET ME WRONG. I LIKE MANGA TOO.

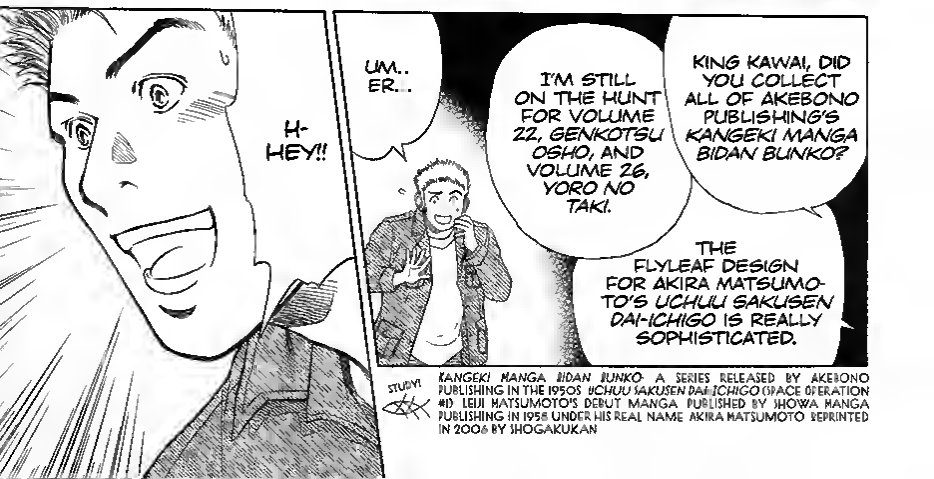

WHAT'S UP, AYU-SAN?
HI, SUDO-KUN! BEEN A WHILE!!


WON-DER IF KINKO'S HERE...


OH, N-NO-THING...
WHAT'RE YOU BUYING TODAY?
LONG TIME, NO...
SUDO-KUN, YOU CAME!
HELLO.
WHOA, ALL THE REGULARS!
I'VE GOTTA PLAY IT COOL


DOOM!
KINKO-CHAN! DID YOU READ THIS WEEK'S ISSUE OF MORNING?
YEAH!! WASN'T IT GREAT?
WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN NEXT IN ICARUS NO YAMA?
WHAT WILL MIKAMI DO?
DID YOU KNOW CHIBI MARUKO-CHAN'S IN HIGH SCHOOL NOW IN SPIRITS?
YEAH, BUT SHE'S STILL THE SAME COOL GIRL!!
AND SHE'S STILL CLASSMATES WITH TAMA-CHAN!

STUDY! *ICARUS NO YAMA* (MOUNTAIN OF ICARUS): BY MATSUKO IIEUCHI. SERIALIZED IN KODANSHA'S *MORNING* FROM 2005 *CHIBI MARUKO'S* ADOLESCENCE IS CHRONICLED IN MANGA-ASAN *ITTOKI TOMO*, BY MOMOKO SAKURA. SERIALIZED FROM 2006 IN SHOGAKUKAN'S *SPIRITS*


KING KAWAI, DID YOU COLLECT ALL OF AKEBONO PUBLISHING'S KANGEKI MANGA BIDAN BUNKO?
I'M STILL ON THE HUNT FOR VOLUME 22, GENKOTSU OSHO, AND VOLUME 26, YORO NO TAKI.
UM.. ER...
THE FLYLEAF DESIGN FOR AKIRA MATSUMOTO'S UCHUU SAKUSEN DAI-ICHIGO IS REALLY SOPHISTICATED.
H-HEY!!

STUDY! *KANGEKI MANGA BIDAN BUNKO*: A SERIES RELEASED BY AKEBONO PUBLISHING IN THE 1950S. *UCHUU SAKUSEN DAI-ICHIGO* (SPACE OPERATION #1): LEIJI MATSUMOTO'S DEBUT MANGA. PUBLISHED BY SHOWA MANGA PUBLISHING IN 1958 UNDER HIS REAL NAME AKIRA MATSUMOTO. REPRINTED IN 2006 BY SHOGAKUKAN

★ AINORI (LOVE RIDE) IS A POPULAR REALITY TV SHOW.
DID YOU CATCH LAST WEEK'S EPISODE OF AINORI?
I THOUGHT FOR SURE MEI WAS GOING TO END UP HAPPY.
BET THE GUY'S HATING HIMSELF RIGHT NOW...
...FOR NOT LEAVING WITH HER.
STUDY!
FUICHIN-SAN'S MANGA WAS ORIGINALLY SERIALIZED IN NOMANISHA'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE FROM 1957. ADAPTED INTO AN ANIMATED FEATURE IN 2001, THAT PLAYED AT THE NAICHO-THEATER TOLLYWOOD. THE DVD IS AVAILABLE ONLINE.
UMM...
SIGH
NOT INTERESTED.
APOLOGIES TO AINORI FANS OUT THERE.
SHUT OUT
...
YEAH
THE SEQUEL.
THE ANIMATION WAS SO SMOOTH, AND THEY REALLY CAPTURED THE LOOK OF THE MANGA.
CAUGHT IT AT TOLLYWOOD IN SHIMO-KITAZAWA.
SO DID YOU SEE THE ANIME VERSION OF FUICHIN-SAN?
THE THING IS..
I LIKE IT JUST FINE.
SHEESH.
IT'S NOT LIKE I HATE MANGA.

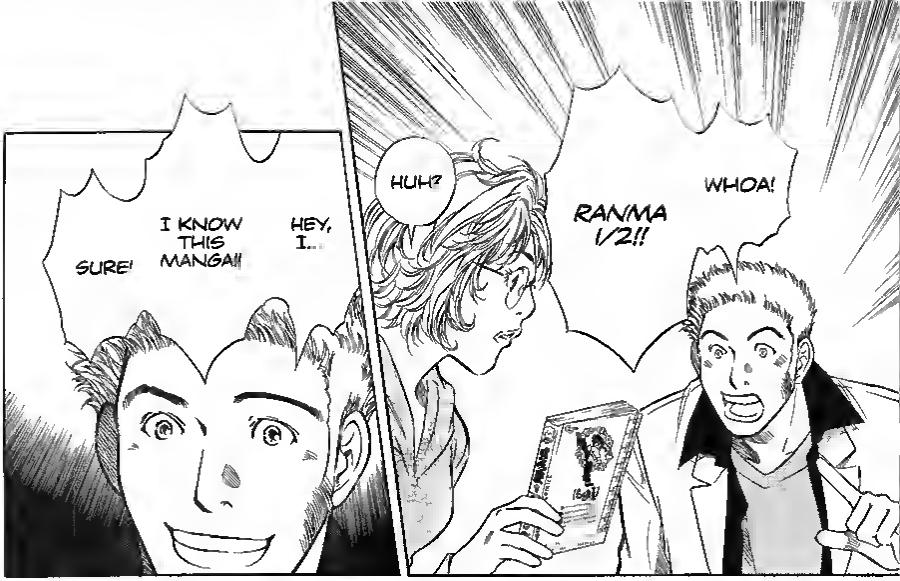
IS THAT SO WRONG?
...I'M JUST YOUR AVERAGE CASUAL READER!
"SHE'S A HARD NUT TO CRACK."
"YOU WANNA GO OUT WITH KINKO-CHAN?
"JUST GOT TWO-TIMED AND DUMPED BY THE PRESI-DENT OF THE MANGA CLUB
"SAID SHE WAS THROUGH WITH MEN"
I DON'T WANT TO POKE AT OLD WOUNDS ...
...BUT MAYBE I'LL ASK HER ABOUT IT.
HUH?
LIES.
NOTHING BUT BASE RUMORS

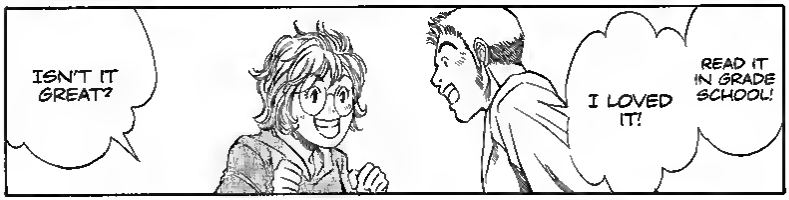
SURE, I WENT TO THE MOVIES AND HAD DINNER WITH THAT GUY A COUPLE OF TIMES.
I GUESS WE HAD FUN.
BUT THAT'S ALL. I RESPECTED HIM AS OUR CLUB PRESIDENT, SO I TRIED NOT TO HURT HIS FEELINGS.
PLUS, I LIKED THE MANGA HE DREW.
BUT ONE DAY...
MAN, THAT KINKO SHE TOTALLY THROWS HERSELF AT ME.
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO GET THE HINT THAT I'M NOT INTERESTED.
SUCKS BEING A LADIES' MAN, Y'KNOW?
BWa HaHa
...TELL YOU ...
...AND HOW ...
...WHEN ...
...WHERE ...
...DID I EVER ...
...THAT I LIKED YOU?
I WAS JUST BEING POLITE, AND HE TOLD EVERYBODY I WAS IN LOVE!
SOUNDS LIKE A CLUELESS JERK
HEY!

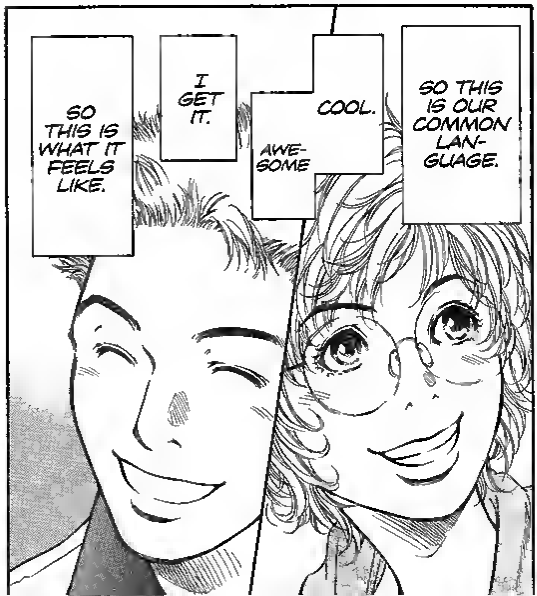
HELLO AGAIN.
...FROM KINGYO, RIGHT?
YOU'RE...
I'M A GRAD STUDENT HERE
THE NAME'S FUJITA.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
PLEASE, NOT SENSEI. I'M ONLY A TUTOR.
SEN-SEI
OF COURSE.
OH, YOU LIKE MANGA?
...FOR MY OWN BOOKS THIS TIME.
I'M PLANNING TO STOP BACK AT KINGYO SOON...

WHAT A NICE GUY.
SHEESH. ANOTHER MANGA FREAK.
MANGA, MANGA, MANGA ...
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT OBSESSING OVER MANGA?
HMPH
DOESN'T SEEM THAT NICE TO ME.
U
HUH?
JEALOUS MUCH?
WHAT MADE YOU ASK ABOUT MY SUPPOSED EX?
ER, NOTHING
I DON'T HAVE THE MANGA SMARTS TO KEEP UP WITH YOU.
AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE YOU LIKE TO TALK ABOUT.
I'M JUST TRYING TO.
HMPH
NEVER MIND. SORRY IF I UPSET YOU.
IT'S OKAY.

I GUESS...
...WE DON'T HAVE TO TALK.
SOMETIMES IT'S NICE JUST TO WALK TOGETHER
MIND IF I READ WHILE WE WALK?
HUH?
YIKES
THAT'S RIGHT. KINKO WAS NAMED AFTER KINJIRO NINOMIYA.
SAY...
HM?
THANKS.
UM.. SURE.
...THE PHILOSOPHER WHO ALWAYS HAD A BOOK IN HIS HAND.
©RUMIKO TAKAHASHI


SURE!
I KNOW THIS MANGA!!
HEY, I..
HUH?
WHOA!
RANMA 1/2!!


ISN'T IT GREAT?
I LOVED IT!
READ IT IN GRADE SCHOOL!


SO THIS IS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE.
I GET IT.
AWE-SOME
COOL.
SO THIS IS OUR COMMON LAN-GUAGE.

RYOGA AND P-CHAN
JUSEN-KYO SPRINGS!

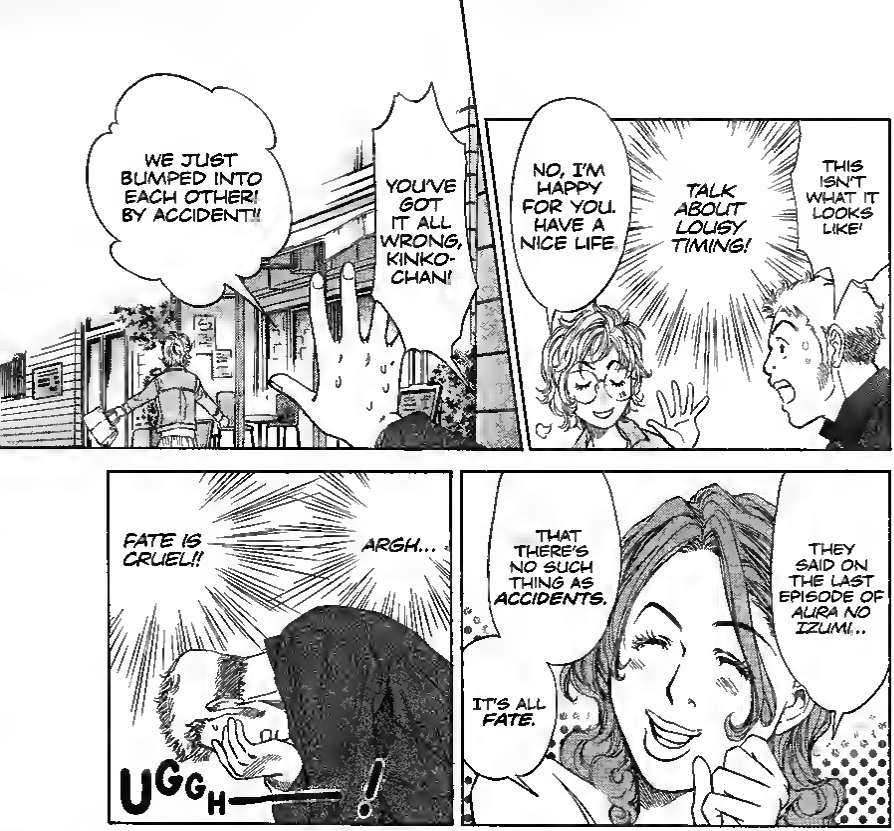
RINDO BOOKSTORE
WEL-COME.
UH.. DO YOU HAVE RANMA 1/2?
WHICH VOLUME ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
I'LL TAKE...
...THE ENTIRE SERIES?!
SHING
THIS MO-MENT...
...BUYING THE WHOLE THING...

SHF
SHF
SORRY.. LEMME HELP.
...FEELS GOOOD!!
Perky now
CHOK
CHOK
OH, NO, THAT'S OKAY.
WOULD YOU LIKE COVERS ON THEM?
NO, THIS IS GREAT FOR THE STORE.
ALBEIT WITH ULTERIOR MOTIVES
MAYBE I'M HEADED DOWN THE SLIPPERY SLOPE TO MANGA FREAKDOM..
THANK YOU!
OH!!
SUDO-SAN!!

I NEEDED TO GET STARTED ON MY SENIOR THESIS.
YOU QUIT ON ME! I MISS YOU!
STILL SEXY AS HELL.
TAKE-SHITA-SAN.
WELL, HI THERE!
LONG TIME NO SEE!!
A CO-WORKER FROM MY OLD JOB.
NO, I CAN MANAGE.
WANT ME TO HELP YOU CARRY IT?
UH, NO, THIS IS..
IS THIS YOUR RE-SEARCH?
THEY REALLY STARTED YELLING AT EACH OTHER...
HUH?
THAT'S WEIRD
THAT GUY WAS SO WRONG FOR NOT TELLING HER.
HUH., YEAH.
HEY, DID YOU CATCH LAST NIGHT'S KISS IYA?

★KISS IYA (KISS NO) IS ANOTHER REALITY TV SHOW

WHY NOT?
...BUT I'M NOT ENJOYING MYSELF AT ALL.
WE'RE SPEAKING A COMMON LANGUAGE ...
CRAP!!
WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?
HUH?
WELL, YOU TWO SEEM AWFULLY FRIENDLY
HEH


WE JUST BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER! BY ACCIDENT!!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, KINKO-CHAN!
NO, I'M HAPPY FOR YOU. HAVE A NICE LIFE
TALK ABOUT LOUSY TIMING!
THIS ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!
FATE IS CRUEL!!
ARGH...
UGGH
THAT THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS ACCIDENTS.
IT'S ALL FATE.
THEY SAID ON THE LAST EPISODE OF AURA NO IZUMI...

★*AURA NO IZUMI* (IZUMI'S AURA) IS A PSYCHIC "SPIRITUAL ADVICE" SHOW.

JUST BECAUSE WE BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER.
OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
MAYBE WE COULD HAVE LUNCH
ARE YOU FREE RIGHT NOW?
FU-JITA-SAN.
KINKO-SAN!

TO BE HONEST, I WAS WAITING FOR YOU.
OH?
THIS WASN'T AN ACCIDENT.
WELL... ALL RIGHT.
HE'S SINCERE AND A GENTLEMAN.
THEN YOU'LL GO?
NO, IT'S OKAY!
I DON'T MEAN TO PRESSURE YOU.
PLEASE DON'T THINK I'M A STALKER, THOUGH!
GRH.
RANMA
AKANE
PANDA
HURTS
LOVE
GRF!
HEH!

...AND RANMA 1/2 STILL MAKES ME LAUGH.
I'M AS DEPRESSED AS I'VE EVER BEEN...
Oww...my stomach hurts...
THIS IS CRAZY.
SNERF
HA
WOW, THAT SOUNDS RIGHT UP MY ALLEY.
I CAN'T WAIT TO READ IT.
.. KIND OF MANGA. ISN'T THAT A GREAT CONCEPT?
.. I KNEW I HAD TO TALK TO YOU.
WHEN I SAW HOW HAPPY YOU WERE WITH YOUR NOSE IN A BOOK AT KINGYO...
I'M GLAD.

UM, FUJITA-SAN
I WAS WONDERING
...YOU'RE VERY KIND AND I LIKE TALKING TO YOU...
ACTUALLY, YOU MAKE IT REALLY EASY...
AND I'M HAVING A GOOD TIME.
BUT...
OLD SCHOOL
STANDARD
I READ...
...THE WHOLE THING.

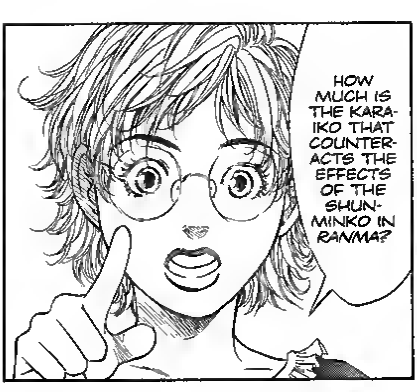
...AND SOMETIMES IT SEEMS LIKE WE'RE TRYING TOO HARD.
...TO GET ALONG...
WE...
DON'T HAVE ANY-THING IN COMMON.
...BUT THERE'S A FRIEND I CAN'T GET OUT OF MY MIND.
AND HE TRIES SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND ALL MY JABBERING ABOUT MANGA.
IF HE SEES ME READING ...
...HE JUST SMILES AND WAITS FOR ME TO FINISH.
...BUT IT NEVER SEEMS TO BUG HIM.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT IT.
I GUESS... HE MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M OKAY...
...JUST THE WAY I AM.
THAT'S ALL.

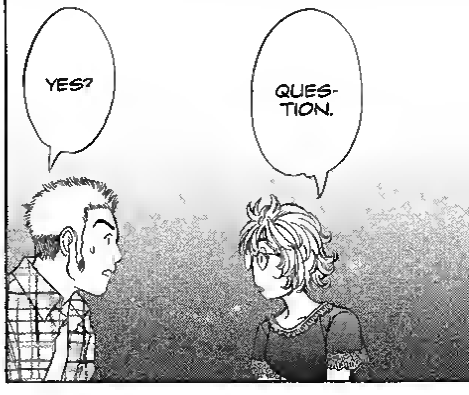
YOU MUST REALLY LIKE THIS GUY.
BUT WE DON'T HAVE A COMMON LANGUAGE...
MAYBE HAVING A COMMON LANGUAGE ...
ISN'T SO MUCH ABOUT LIKING THE SAME THINGS...
...AS BEING ABLE TO SHARE YOUR JOYS WITH ONE ANOTHER.
!
WHERE DO THEY GET THEIR PASSION?
THEY'RE ALL BURSTING WITH ENERGY AND BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS!
MAN, THESE CHARAC-TERS ARE CRAZY!

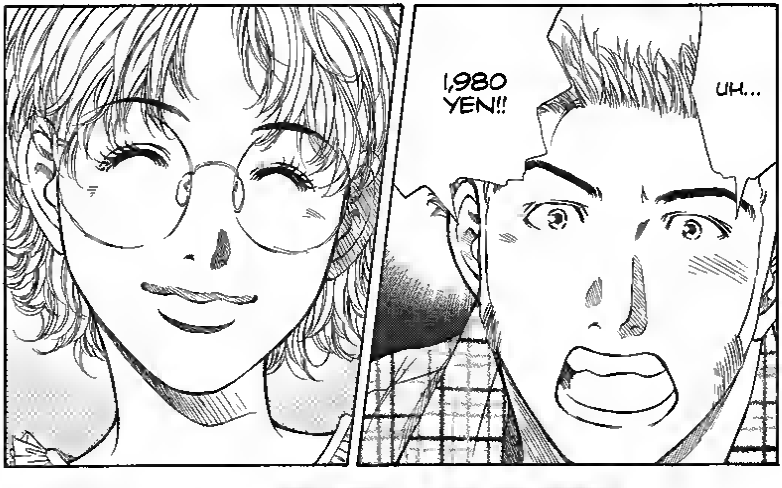
HUH?
EVEN IF YOU TURNED INTO A GUY WHEN SPLASHED WITH HOT WATER, I THINK I'D STILL LIKE YOU.
HM?
YOU KNOW WHAT, KINKO?
SHAAA
OKAY, OKAY, STOP... I GET IT.
...OR ...
EVEN IF YOU TURNED INTO A PANDA, OR A PIG, OR A CAT...OR HAD NO SENSE OF DIRECTION, OR LIKED TO NAME INANIMATE OBJECTS, OR TURNED INTO A DUCK, OR COULDN'T COOK TO SAVE YOUR LIFE, OR WERE REALLY CLUMSY OR FORGETFUL, OR YOU WERE A GUY DRESSED IN WOMEN'S CLOTHING, OR YOU WERE PANTYHOSE TARO...
WHEN I WAS READING RANMA, I REALIZED ...
YOU'RE BAB-BLING!
YOU MEAN YOU WANNA BREAK UP?
STOP?

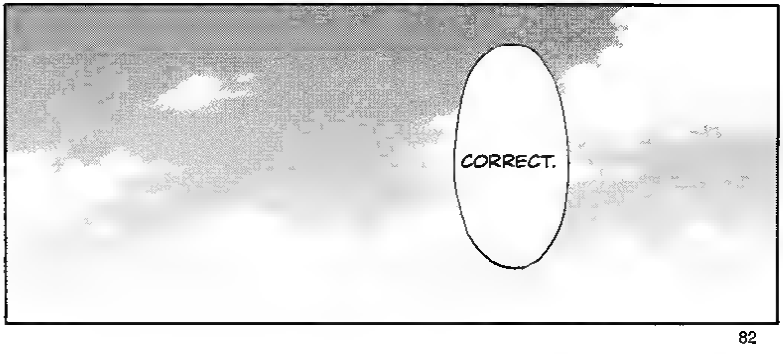
IT'S LIKE THEY'D GO TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH JUST FOR LOVE.
THAT'S HOW THEY GET THEMSELVES INTO THOSE CRAZY SITUATIONS
..MOST OF THE TIME, THEY'RE ALL ACTING OUT OF LOVE.
..AND A LITTLE JEALOUS.
..AND SAD..
I FEEL HEARTENED BY THEIR STRENGTH AND HUMANITY ..
.. AND I STILL DON'T KNOW A LOT ABOUT YOU OR MANGA. .
.. AND WE'RE NOT ALWAYS COMPATIBLE ...
YOU AND ME JUST KIND OF HAPPENED ...
THAT'S WHY I PROMISE TO BE LIKE THAT FOR YOU!

YOU'RE THE ONE!
...BUT I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU!!
I BET ...
THIS IS...
AND I DON'T NEED TO KNOW WHY!!
FOR SOME REASON, I CAN'T CHANGE THAT!
...YOU FEEL ABOUT MANGA.
PROBABLY THE SAME WAY..


HOW MUCH IS THE KARA-IKO THAT COUNTER-ACTS THE EFFECTS OF THE SHUN-MINKO IN RANMA?


YES?
QUES-TION.


1,980 YEN!!
UH...

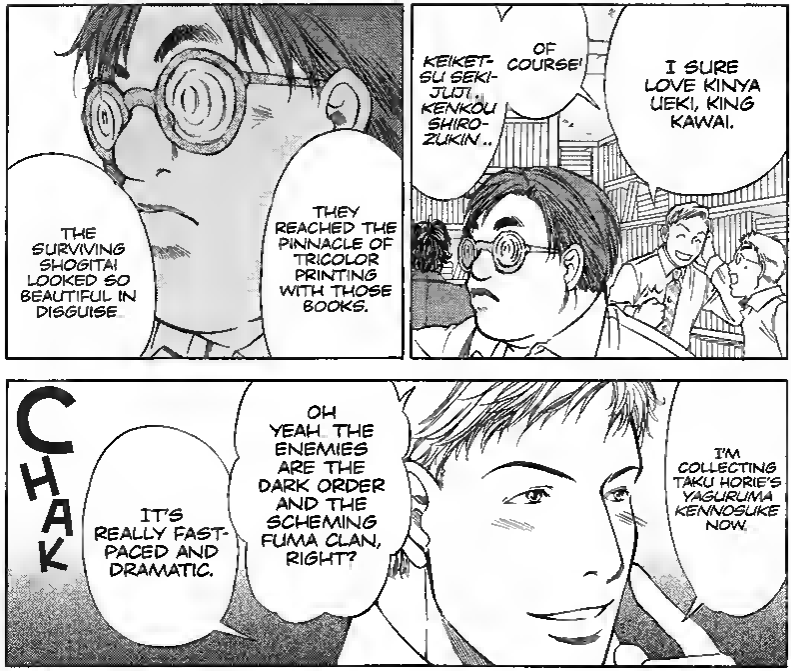

CORRECT.

Chapter 25: Beautiful People

KINKO-SAN TURNED ME DOWN FLAT THE OTHER DAY.
I FEEL LIKE THE COMTE DE GIRODELLE IN *THE ROSE OF VERSAILLES.*
OR LEO FROM *WHITE TROIKA.*
I'M HERE TO DROWN MY SORROWS IN MANGA.
ANY SUGGESTIONS?

COM-RADE...
GRP
HOW'D THAT HAPPEN?
A GOOD-LOOKING GUY LIKE FUJITA-SAN?
STUDY!
CHEER YOU RIGHT UP.
WILL IT MAKE ME FEEL BETTER?
...FOR A CHANGE OF PACE?
HOW ABOUT IGAGURI-KUN...
CHAK
...
ISN'T THAT LIKE RUBBING SALT IN THE WOUND?
I'D READ SLAM DUNK VOLUME 1 OVER AND OVER!!
GREET-INGS.
MURAO HERE, POINT-LESSLY BEAUTIFUL AS EVER.
MY GOAL IS TO BE ONE OF THE BEAUTIFUL CHARACTERS IN YUKARI ICHIJO'S MANGA

VERSAILLES NO BARA (THE ROSE OF VERSAILLES) BY RIYOKO IKEDA SERIALIZED IN SHUEISHA'S SHUUKAN MARGARET (WEEKLY MARGARET) FROM 1972
SHIROI TROIKA (WHITE TROIKA) BY HIDEKO MIZUNO SERIALIZED IN SHUUKAN MARGARET FROM 1964
SLAM DUNK BY TAKEHIKO INOUE SERIALIZED IN SHUEISHA'S SHONEN JUMP FROM 1990.


I SURE LOVE KINYA UEKI, KING KAWAI.
OF COURSE!
KEIKET-SU SEKI-JUJI. KENKOU SHIRO-ZUKIN..
THEY REACHED THE PINNACLE OF TRICOLOR PRINTING WITH THOSE BOOKS.
THE SURVIVING SHOGITAI LOOKED SO BEAUTIFUL IN DISGUISE.
I'M COLLECTING TAKU HORIE'S YAGURUMA KENNOSUKE NOW.
OH YEAH. THE ENEMIES ARE THE DARK ORDER AND THE SCHEMING FUMA CLAN, RIGHT?
IT'S REALLY FAST-PACED AND DRAMATIC.
CHAK

TOAGURI KUN, BY EIICHI IUKUI. A MANGA ABOUT JUDO, SERIALIZED IN AKITA SHOTEN'S YOUKEN OH THE CREATOR DIED LEAVING THE SERIES UNFINISHED. KEIKETSU SEKIJUJI AND KENKOU SHIROZUKIN BY TAKU HORIE, SERIALIZED IN SHONEN GAHOU FROM 1984 TO 1985. YAGURUMA KENNOSUKE IS A MANGA. KENKOU WAS SERIALIZED IN SHONEN KENNOSUKE FIGHTS EVIL WEARING A BLACK MASK.

...
HOW DID YOU GET SO TALL AND BUFF?
GEE, TOME-SAN, YOU'RE HUGE.
CAN YOU MOVE THOSE LONG LEGS OF YOURS?
HEY, TOME-SAN
OOPS, SORRY, KINGYO-SAN.
BIKKURIMAN CHOCO.
I HAD TEN BUFFALOMAN FIGURES LINED UP NEXT TO MY CLASSROOM WINDOW
I BOUGHT IT TO GET THE STICKERS I WAS REALLY INTO KINKESHI TOO
THE CANDY THAT WAS BIG WHEN WE WERE KIDS?

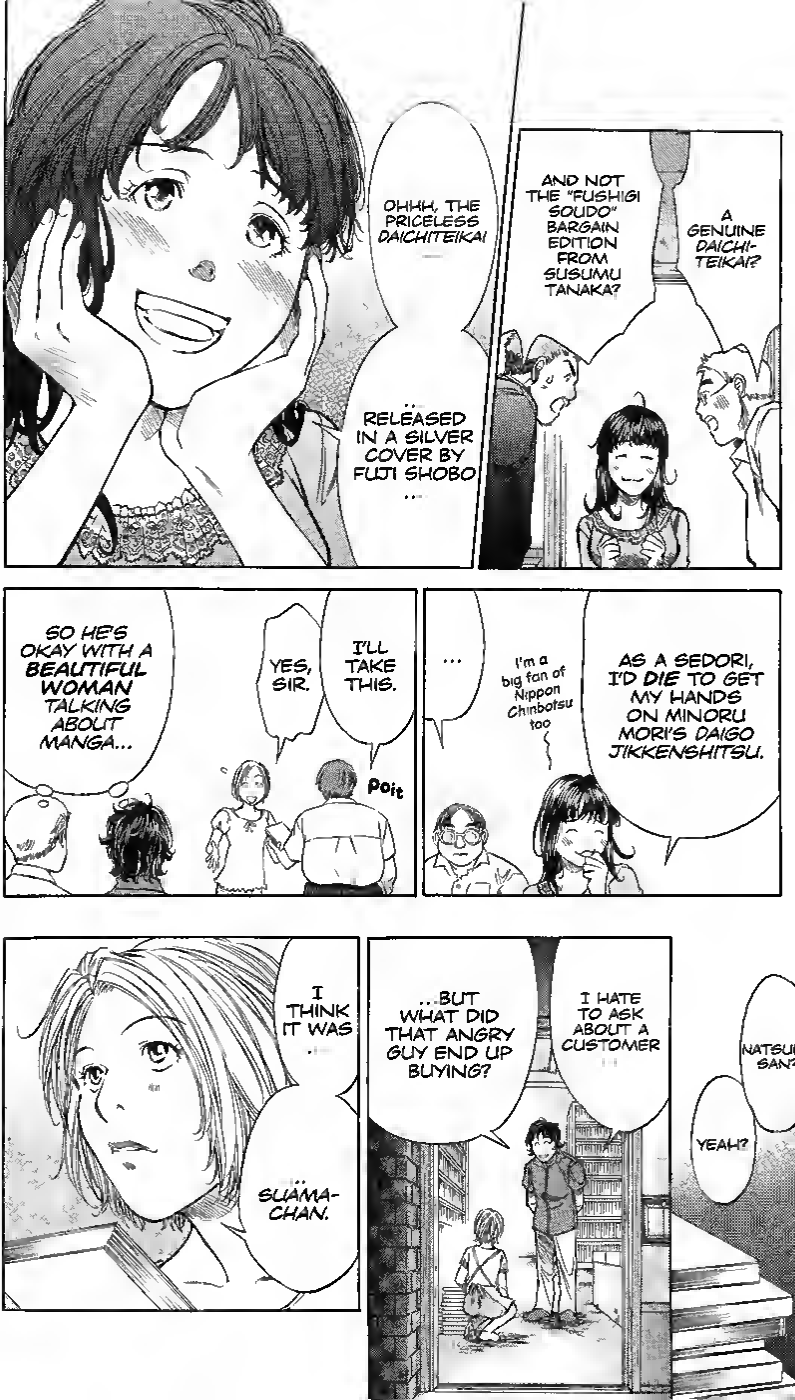
★IN THE 1980S BIKKURIMAN CHOCO WAS SOLD WITH COLLECTIBLE STICKERS BASED ON THE ANIME *BIKKURIMAN*. KINKESHI, MINIATURE RUBBER FIGURINES OF CHARACTERS FROM THE 1980S MANGA *KINNIKUMAN* (MUSCLEMAN) ARE STILL SOUGHT-AFTER COLLECTIBLES

THE MINOR WRESTLERS ...
...LIKE CHANELMAN AND SNEAGATOR IN HIS TRUE FORM..
BUFFALOMAN AND ROBIN MASK WERE PRETTY EASY TO GET.
YEAH, I REMEMBER.
WHAT WERE THE RARE CHARACTERS?
W...
W...
WILL YOU GIVE IT A REST?!

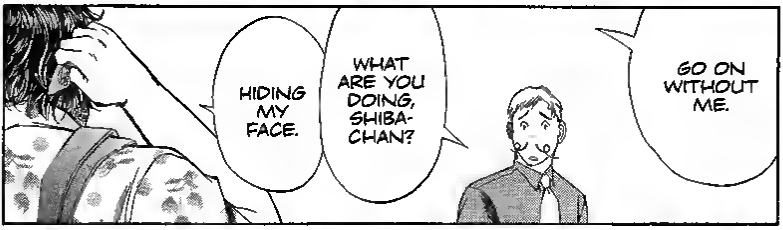
HFF
CAN I HELP YOU WITH SOME-THING?
EXCUSE ME, SIR
SHF
HUH?
I DUNNO WHY, BUT IT MAKES ME FURIOUS ...
...TO WATCH ALL YOU GOOD-LOOKING GUYS SHOOTING OFF YOUR MOUTHS ABOUT MANGA!

HUH? BUT WHY?
DON'T ASK ME!
I JUST ...
...FEEL LIKE SAYING ...
..."WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW?"
YOU!
AND YOU!
AND YOU!
AND YOU!
AND YO-

THWAK!!
NOW, WAIT A MINUTE!!
WHAT?
YOU'RE FINE.
A FACE LIKE YOURS IS A DIME A DOZEN.
NO! GET MAD AT ME TOO!!
THERE, THERE.
GYA
A
CHAK
HI!!
HEY, IS IT TRUE?
SOMEONE SPOTTED A COPY OF MINORU MORI'S DAICHITEIKAI IN HOKKAIDO?


A GENUINE DAICHI-TEIKAI?
AND NOT THE "FUSHIGI SOUDO" BARGAIN EDITION FROM SUSUMU TANAKA?
OHHH, THE PRICELESS DAICHITEIKAI
...
RELEASED IN A SILVER COVER BY FUJI SHOBO
...
AS A SEDORI, I'D DIE TO GET MY HANDS ON MINORU MORI'S DAIGO JIKKENSHITSU.
...
I'm a big fan of Nippon Chinbotsu too
I'LL TAKE THIS.
YES, SIR.
Poit
SO HE'S OKAY WITH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN TALKING ABOUT MANGA...
NATSUKI-SAN?
YEAH?
I HATE TO ASK ABOUT A CUSTOMER
...BUT WHAT DID THAT ANGRY GUY END UP BUYING?
I THINK IT WAS
...
SUAMA-CHAN.

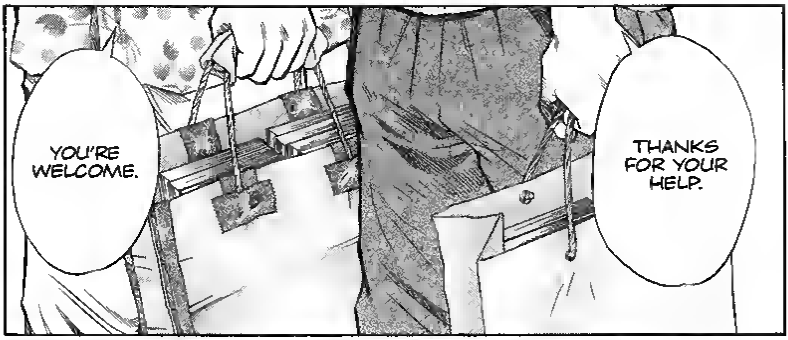
HMM...
SUAMA-CHAN?
MASAKO WATANABE'S DEBUT SHOJO MANGA?
UH-HUH.
OH, WHAT A CRUEL FATE.. TO BE TOO BEAUTIFUL TO TALK ABOUT MANGA.
I'VE DONE MY BEST TO MAR MY POINTLESS BEAUTY, BUT I FEAR THIS HANDLEBAR MOUSTACHE CAN ONLY CONCEAL SO MUCH.
HM?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SHIBA-CHAN?
LOOKS FINE TO ME.

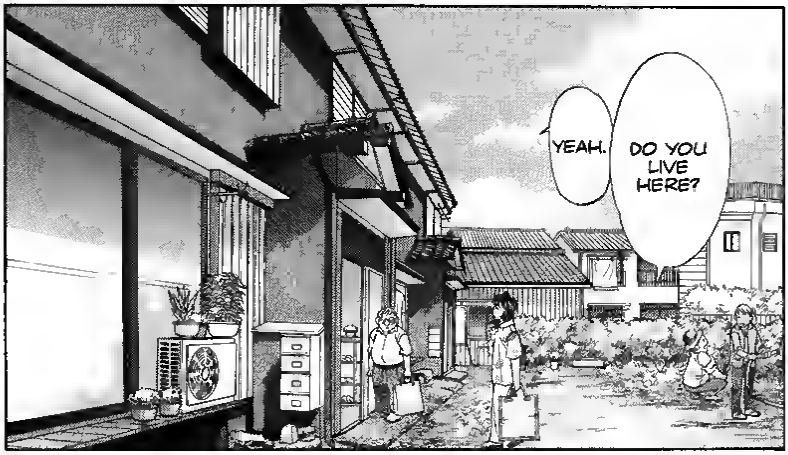

HIDING MY FACE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SHIBA-CHAN?
GO ON WITHOUT ME.

HELLO, SIR.

I'M JUST A BOARDER AT KINGYO USED BOOKS
NO NEED TO BE SUSPICIOUS.
WHO ARE YOU?
YEAH.
MY BAG RIPPED.
YOU SEEM TROUBLED.
I'M FEELING PRETTY DARN SUSPICIOUS
WHAT?
HERE, TAKE THIS.
SHF
STUFFED TOO MANY MANGA IN IT..
AND THE HANDLE BROKE.

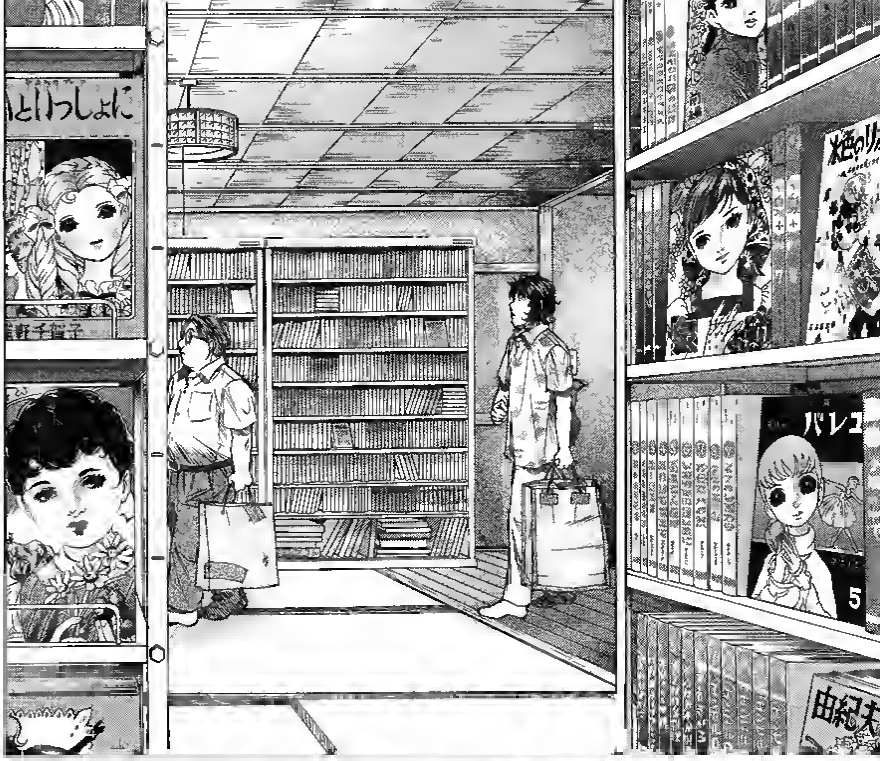
RIP
RIP
RIP
...AND A VELCRO STRAP.
THE HANDLES ARE WRAPPED WITH CLOTH FOR EASY GRIPPING...
AND THE HANDLES TOO!
THE EDGES RE-INFORCED WITH MASKING TAPE!
CARDBOARD IN THE BOTTOM OF THE BAG!
ALWAYS?
NAH, I ALWAYS CARRY IT AROUND WITH ME.
BUT WEREN'T YOU PLANNING TO USE IT YOURSELF?
AN ENCOUNTER ...
...IS BUT FOR AN INSTANT.
AN ENCOUNTER WITH MANGA ...


THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
YOU'RE WELCOME.


DO YOU LIVE HERE?
YEAH.

WHOA...

PLEASE COME IN.
THANK YOU.

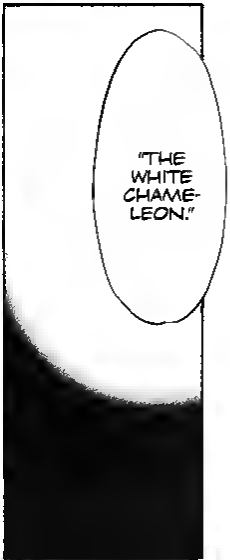


DIDN'T THINK I'D BE INTO SUCH FRILLY STUFF, DID YOU?
YOU NEVER CAN TELL.
OUR STORE OWNER ONCE SPOTTED SOME TOUGH GUYS BUYING CHIKAKO MITSUHASHI MANGA

Wow—
IT'S ALL SO... CUTE.

YEAH.
YOU REALLY LIKE SHOJO MANGA, HUH?

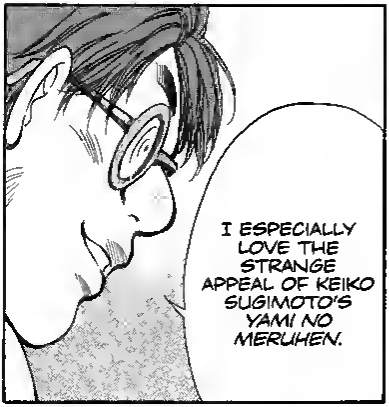
YOU HAVE A COLLEC-TION TO BE PROUD OF
I'LL MAKE SOME COFFEE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
SO WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
IT'S SASA-YAMA.
I'M SHIBA.
I HAVE A MANGA I WANT TO SHOW YOU.
WHAT IS IT?
A HORROR MANGA.



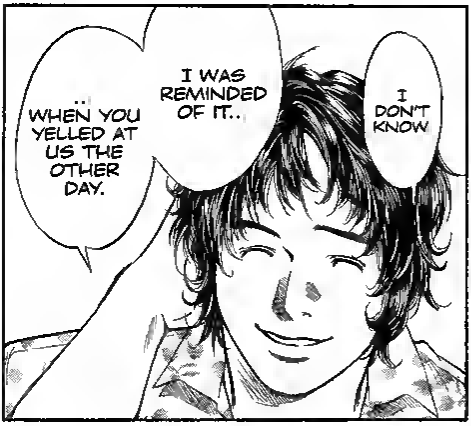
*"SUIYOUBI NO MORI" (WEDNESDAY'S FOREST), "HAKUI (HAMELEON)" (THE WHITE CHAMELEON) AND "SANBON NO CAMELLIA" (THREE CAMELLIAS)

©MASAKO WATANABE
©わたなべまさこ

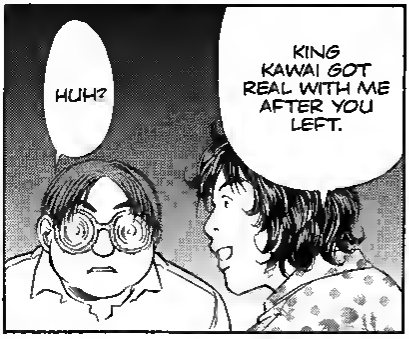
YES!!
THE CHAMELEON TELLS HER THAT IF SHE WOUNDS IT AND DRINKS ITS BLOOD...
ONE DAY A WHITE CHAMELEON APPEARS BEFORE HER.
EXACTLY!!
SHE'LL BECOME BEAUTIFUL!!
I KNOW, WASN'T IT?
THAT WAS A CRAZY SCARY MANGA.
IT WAS FANTASTIC!
THE REST IS PRETTY EASY TO PREDICT.
YES, I REMEMBER NOW.
I HAVE READ IT!
YES...
SHE GETS TAUGHT A PAINFUL LESSON, OF COURSE.


I ESPECIALLY LOVE THE STRANGE APPEAL OF KEIKO SUGIMOTO'S YAMI NO MERUHEN.

BUT THE GIRLS' HORROR MANGA THAT APPEARED IN SHOJO FRIEND AT THE TIME WAS REALLY UNIQUE
I REALLY ENJOY THE ADORABLE LOOK OF WATANABE'S EARLY WORK..


..WHEN YOU YELLED AT US THE OTHER DAY.
I WAS REMINDED OF IT..
I DON'T KNOW

..SHIBA-SAN?
BUT WHY THIS MANGA..

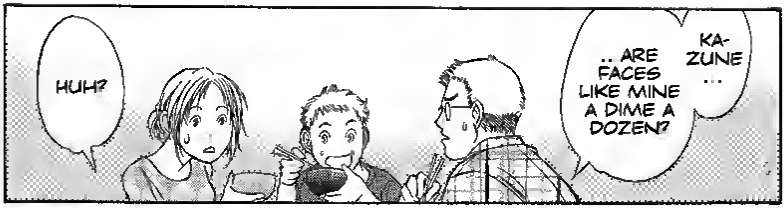

HUH?
KING KAWAI GOT REAL WITH ME AFTER YOU LEFT.

..."BEAUTY IS FLEETING" OR SOMETHING DUMB LIKE THAT
I DIDN'T WANT TO SHOOT OFF MY MOUTH AND SAY..

YOU KNOW
...I UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT GUY WAS FEELING.
IT DOES BUG ME FROM TIME TO TIME.
THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT HANDSOME GUYS GEEK-ING OUT OVER MANGA
DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, I KNOW...
...AND IT'S NOT SOME-THING YOU SAY OUT LOUD.
I'VE GOTTA ADMIT, IT FELT KIND OF GOOD TO HEAR HIM SAY IT.
BUT THAT GUY DID...LIKE THE KID IN "THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES"

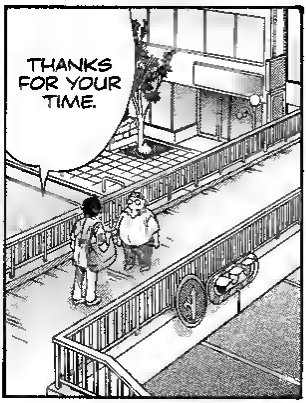
SAY, WHAT IF...
...A WHITE CHAMELEON APPEARED BEFORE YOU, OFFERING TO GRANT YOU A WISH?
WOULD YOU TAKE THE OFFER?
NAH, I'D PASS.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF BECOMING SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT?
AND I DON'T EXACTLY HATE THE WAY I LOOK.
ACTUALLY, I'D LIKE TO ASK THE CHAMELEON.
ASK IT WHAT?
WSSH
SPLOSH

"WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO BE?"

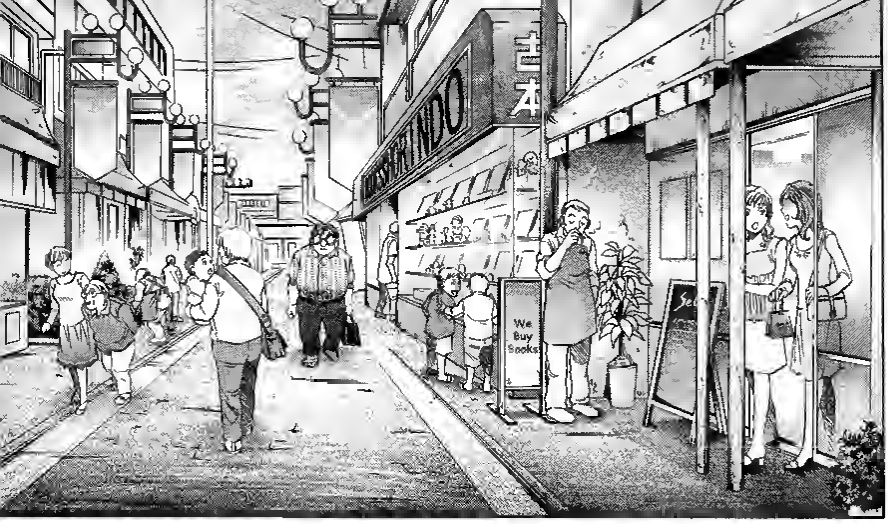

HUH?
.. ARE FACES LIKE MINE A DIME A DOZEN?
KA-ZUNE ...

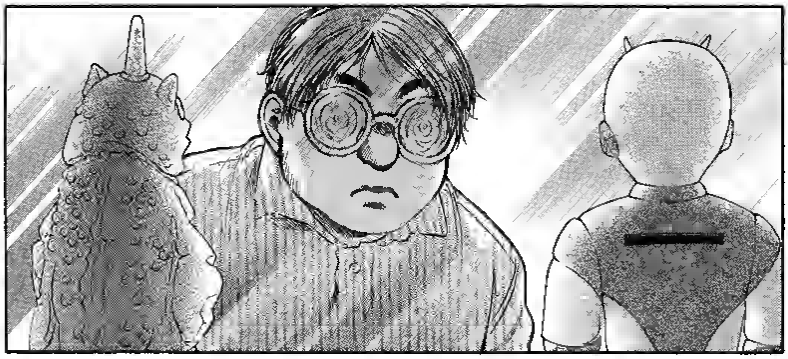
FORGET IT.
I GUESS I LOST MY MASK.

HEY!


THANKS FOR YOUR TIME.

SASA-YAMA-SAN!
PLEASE DROP BY KINGYO AGAIN!


We Buy Books



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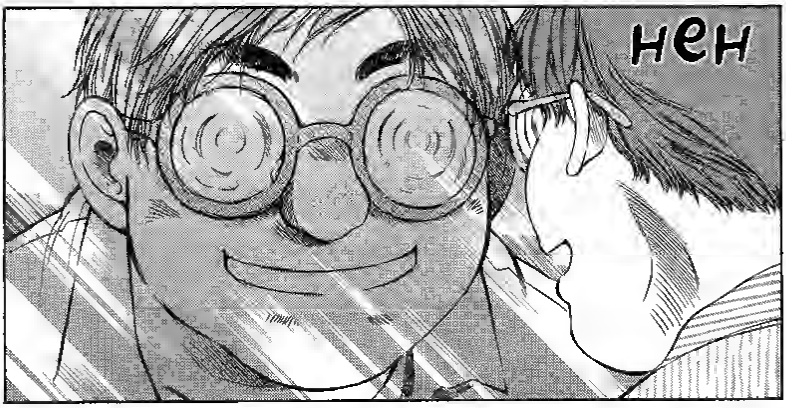
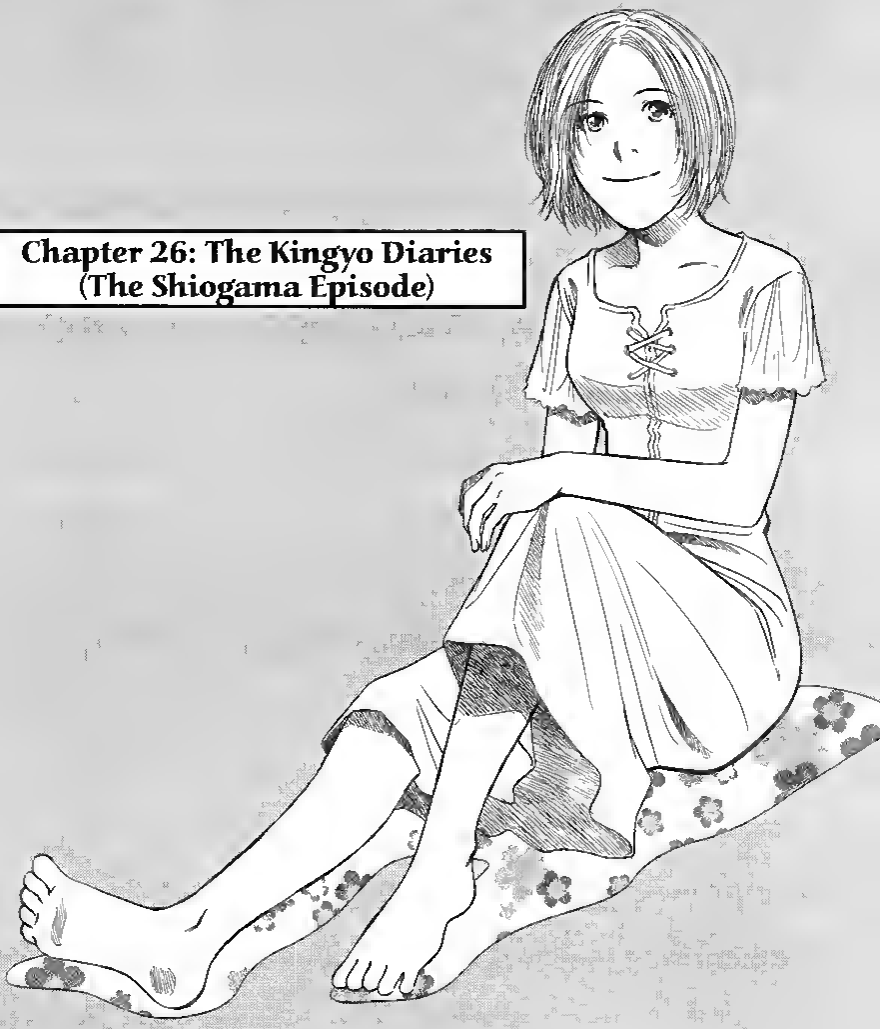

нен

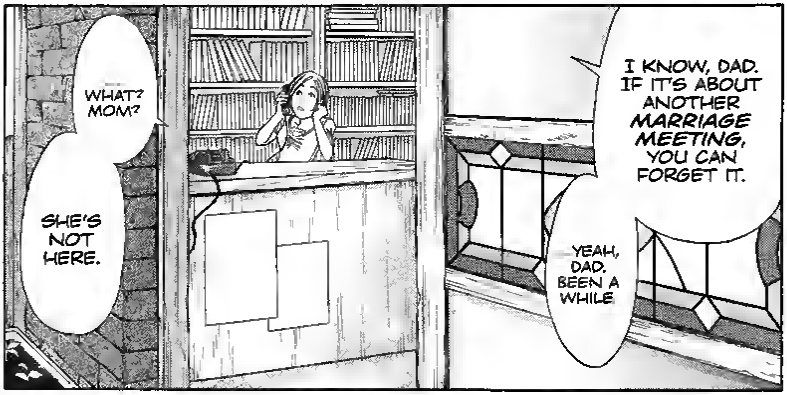
古本
BOOKSSHOP NOO

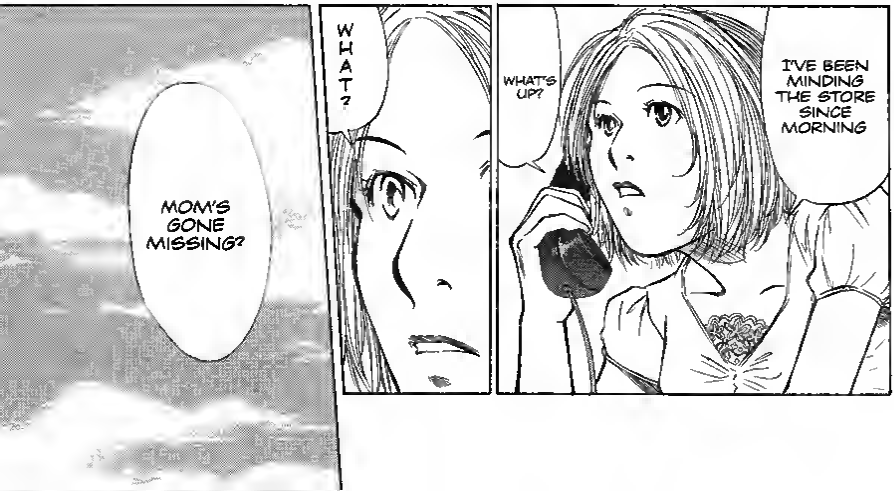
Chapter 26: The Kingyo Diaries (The Shiogama Episode)



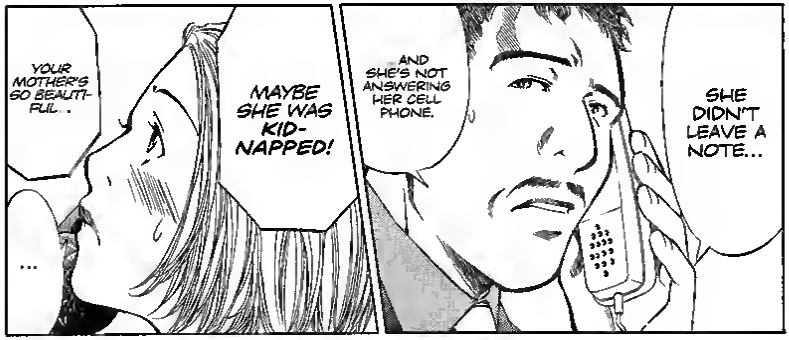
BRRRNG!
CHNG
BRRRNG!
ah
NA... TSUKI.. CHAAAN..
..KINGYO USED BOOKS.
HELLO, AND THANK YOU FOR CALLING..

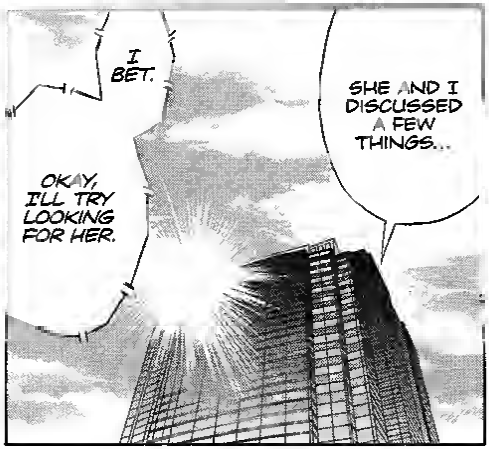
WAAAH! NATSUKI, HONEY! IT'S ME, YOUR FATHER!!
THE NUMBER YOU HAVE REACHED IS NO LONGER IN SERVICE..


WHAT? MOM?
SHE'S NOT HERE.
I KNOW, DAD. IF IT'S ABOUT ANOTHER MARRIAGE MEETING, YOU CAN FORGET IT.
YEAH, DAD. BEEN A WHILE


MOM'S GONE MISSING?
WHAT?
WHAT'S UP?
I'VE BEEN MINDING THE STORE SINCE MORNING

.. BUT SHE'S NOT HERE YET.
WE'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT PARTY TO ATTEND...


YOUR MOTHER'S SO BEAUTIFUL.
...
MAYBE SHE WAS KIDNAPPED!
AND SHE'S NOT ANSWERING HER CELL PHONE.
SHE DIDN'T LEAVE A NOTE...


I BET.
OKAY, I'LL TRY LOOKING FOR HER.
SHE AND I DISCUSSED A FEW THINGS...

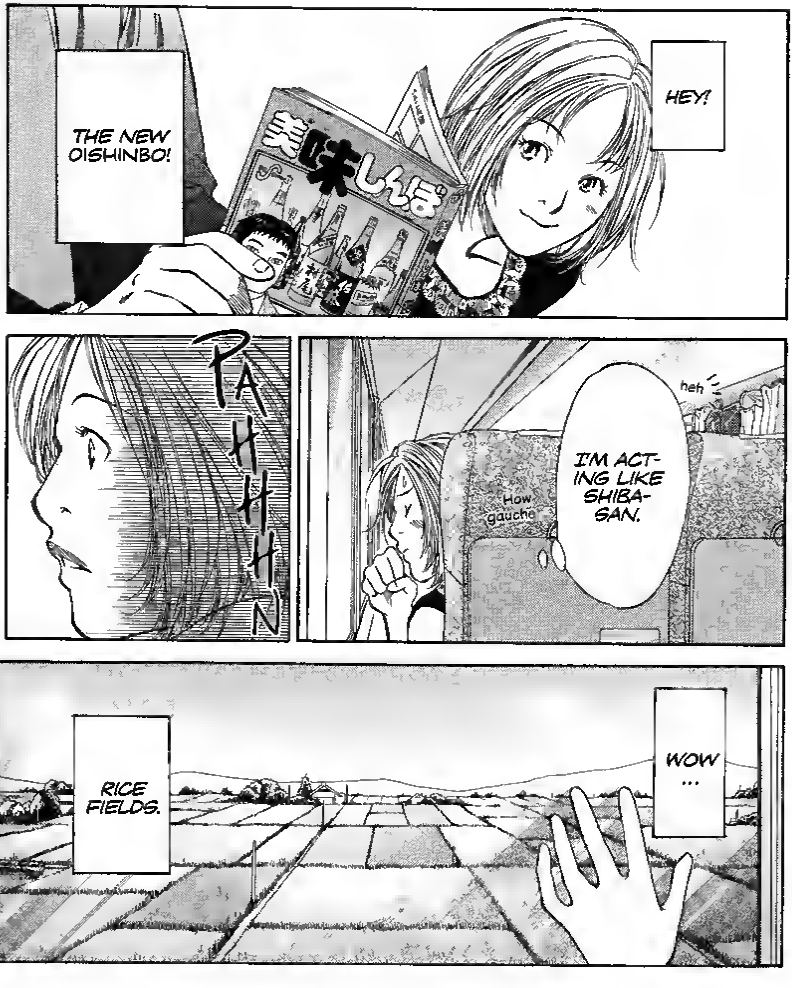
UH.. WELL...
HAVE YOU TWO BEEN FIGHTING AGAIN?
YEEK

HI, NATSUKI-CHAN.
DAD?
HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT MOM?
WELL THEN
CHNG
BRRR NG!
I'M IN AN EENSY-WEENSY BIT OF TROUBLE.
SORRY TO WORRY YOU.
MOM ...
CAN YOU COME PICK ME UP?
...AND I MUST'VE DROPPED MY PURSE SOME-WHERE.
I WENT OUT LOOKING FOR INGREDIENTS FOR THE COOKING CLASS I'M TEACHING..

I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE SAFE, MOM.
SO WHERE ARE YOU?
WHAAAT?
SENDAI?
THAT'S MILES AWAY!
THERE'S A PLACE HERE I'VE BEEN DYING TO VISIT.
AND I WANTED TO BRING HOME SOME OF THE LOCAL DELICACIES...
OH, MY BATTERY'S RUNNING LOW.
WAIT, MOM... WHERE IN SENDAI?
IN SHIO-GAMA ...
...AT THE TSUICHI GAI NGA U-
BOOP
MANGA ..
...WHAT?

ZZZZ
THE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALED IS EITHER UNAVAILABLE OR OUT OF THE SERVICE AREA.
THE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALED...
NO GOOD.
SHIBA-SAN MUST BE DEEP IN THE DUNGEON. I'LL NEVER GET THROUGH TO HIM.
DON'T FORGET ABOUT TONIGHT.
WHAT'S TONIGHT?
OH, KINGYO-SAN!
I'LL HAVE TO CLOSE UP SHOP.
THE NEIGH BORHOOD MEETING, OF COURSE
EIGHT O'CLOCK AT THE COM-MUNITY CENTER

WE'RE HAVING A VERY IMPORTANT DISCUSSION, SO YOU HAVE TO COME.
YIKES!
PAHHHHN
WILL I MAKE IT BACK IN TIME?
I RAN OUT IN SUCH A HURRY...
...I NEVER FIGURED OUT WHY MOM WAS TALKING ABOUT MANGA.
KATSUICHI NAGAI..
THE NAME DEFINITELY RINGS A BELL..
...BUT I DON'T THINK HE'S A MANGAKA.
NO DOUBT I'D GET A FIVE-HOUR DISSERTATION IF I ASKED SHIBA-SAN...
GUESS I'LL JUST FIGURE IT OUT ONCE I GET TO SHIOGAMA.



MMM, FEELS NICE!

THIS IS A REFRESHING CHANGE OF SCENERY.

...LIVING IN MANGA, AROUND MANGA, FOR MANGA...

I'VE BEEN SO UP TO MY NECK IN BOOKS LATELY...

HATES MANGA. HE'S STUBBORN, BULLHEADED, OVERBEARING...
SELFISH, CHILDISH AND UNCONTROLLABLE.
I'll write in my diary.
NAH, MAYBE LATER.
MY DAD
Kingyoya Diary
OH!
SHOULD I CALL DAD?
..selfish, childish and uncontrollable. As his call today suggests, Dad is crazy about Mom, but I wonder why Mom ever married him..
I WONDER WHY MOM EVER MARRIED HIM.
EXCUSE ME.

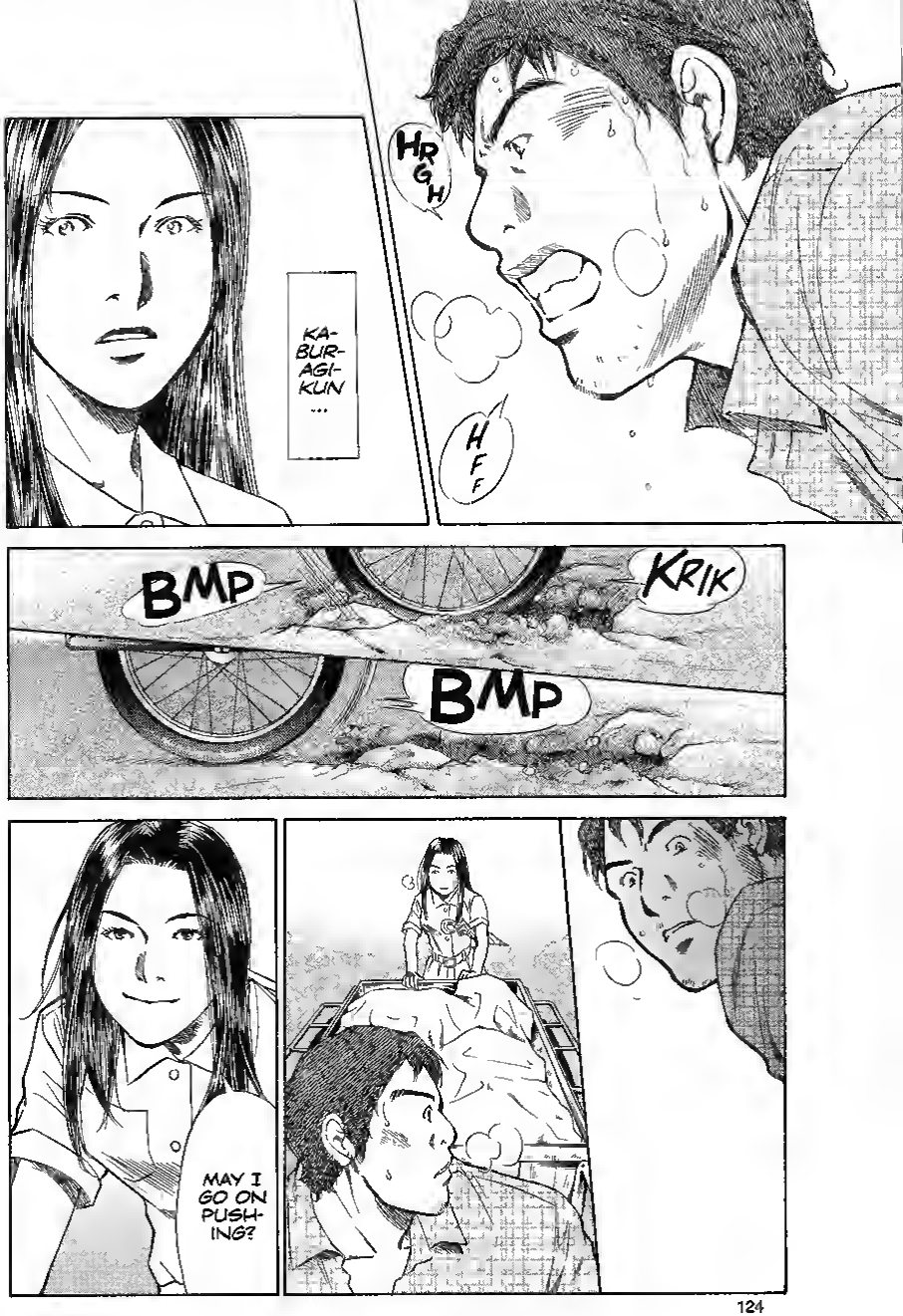
DOES ANYONE BY THE NAME OF KATSUICHI NAGAI LIVE AROUND HERE?
NAGAI-SAN?
OH!
NAGAI-SAN'S MEMORIAL MUSEUM IS RIGHT OVER THERE.
MEMORIAL MUSEUM?
INSIDE THE LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER, FUREAI ESP SHIOGAMA
...IS ...
...THE KATSUICHI NAGAI MANGA MUSEUM.

WHAT'S A BRAINIAC LIKE YOU DOING WITH MANGA?
MONTHLY MANGA
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, KABURAGI-SAN?
THIS IS GARO. THE MANGA IN HERE ARE WORKS OF ART.
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
THAT STUFF'S WORTHLESS TRASH.
HMM
FREAK
...
WHAT KIND OF IDIOT WOULD MOCK SUCH A BEAUTIFUL METHOD OF SELF-EXPRESSION?
MONTHLY MANGA

CHOK
NAT-SUKI?
IT'S ME.
OH...
漫画雑誌「ガロ」創刊30周年記念
長井勝一漫画美術館
Katsuichi Nagai Manga Museum
WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME?
I TOOK A PEEK AT YOUR SCHEDULE BOOK.
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D LIKE SEEING ME IN A PLACE FULL OF MANGA.
YOUR FATHER WOULD LOVE THIS PLACE.
HE'S PROBABLY ALREADY BEEN HERE.
DON'T TALK ABOUT THE OLD MAN!
LOOK! WHEN YOU OPEN THESE BLACK DRAWERS- ORIGINAL ARTWORK!
WHAT A TERRIFIC DISPLAY METHOD.
POSTCARDS SENT TO NAGAI-SAN FROM MANGAKA ...
.. REPRINTED BOOKS.. AND FOR SOME REASON A COLLECTION OF GEGEGE NO KITARO KEYCHAINS.
(PF)
(PF)
THERE'S EVEN A RECREATION OF HIS WORK DESK.
A SMALL MUSEUM, BUT COMFORTABLE... AND FASCINATING.

Katsuichi Nagai
A History of Manga Publishing
...WAS THE FIRST EDITOR OF THE MANGA MAGAZINE GARO.
KATSU-ICHI NAGAI-SAN...
DAD!
MOM ...
OH!
AFTER FOUNDING GARO AT AGE 43...
...HE SET THE STAN-DARD FOR PUBLISHING AND EDITING FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS
GARO HOLDS SPECIAL MEANING ...
...FOR BOTH OF US.
HUH?
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO COME HERE.


KA-BUR-AGI-KUN ...
HRGH
HFF
BMP
KRIK
BMP
MAY I GO ON PUSH-ING?

FREAK
hmph
THANKS.
Min
min
mii
in
Mii
min
in
Mii
min
in
HEY
IS IT FAR?
DON'T OVER-DO IT.
I'M NOT...

MASA-YUKI, YOU'RE BACK!
A USED BOOK-STORE?
HERE'S YOUR PAY-MENT.
I DON'T WANT IT.
HERE, I INSIST.
THANKS FOR HAULING THAT LOAD. YOU'RE A BIG HELP.
HELD MY BREATH THE WHOLE WAY.
WHAT, THESE? YOU?
NAH... I'LL TAKE THOSE INSTEAD.
DON'T GO JUMPING TO CONCLU-SIONS!
...YOU'RE NOT AFTER A GIRL, ARE YOU?
SAY.
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, SON?

THUK
HMPH.
TAKE 'EM
HUH?
YOUR FATHER ONCE SAID.
THAT THE MANGA BELONGS TO THE ARTIST.
BUT THE MAGAZINE BELONGS TO THE EDITOR
IT MUST'VE MADE NAGAI-SAN SO HAPPY TO HAVE DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO A MAGAZINE THAT WAS BELOVED BY SO MANY MANGA ARTISTS.
YOU KNOW
..THE WORK BELONGS TO THE EMPLOY-EES...
..BUT THE COMPANY BELONGS TO THE PRESI-DENT.
SO...

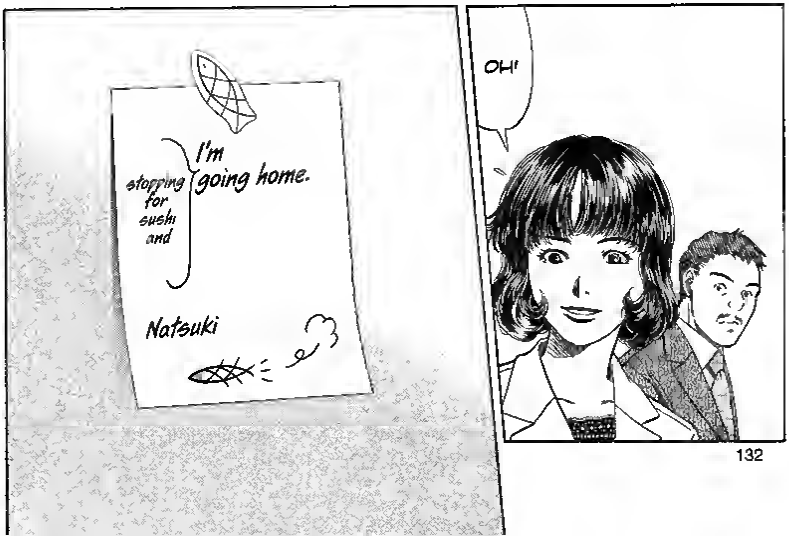
WHAT?
DAD'S COMPANY, PUBLISHING MANGA?
...SHOULDN'T YOU BE THE ONE TO DECIDE...
...WHETHER OR NOT YOUR COMPANY IS GOING TO START PUBLISHING MANGA?
EVERY DAY...
...MY MANAGERS ARE AFTER ME, TALKING UP THE PROFITS IN MANGA PUBLISHING.
IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?
BUT DAD HATES MANGA!!
DID YOU KNOW THAT AT ONE POINT THE MANGAKA WEREN'T GETTING PAID FOR THEIR WORK FOR GARO?
PROFITS, HMM?
I SEE.

I DON'T BELIEVE PROFIT COMES...
...IN JUST ONE FORM...
...OR IS ALWAYS SO EASY TO TALLY UP.
MASA-YUKI KABUR-AGI...
...WOULD YOU PROFIT FROM THIS?

THWAK!
I HATE MANGA!!
THE BLOCK COPY IS A PAIN ..
...IT REQUIRES LOTS OF INK, THE PAPER QUALITY IS BAD. .
...AND IT'S HIGH IN PAGE COUNT BUT LOW IN CONTENT!!
AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE...
...MY COMPANY WILL NOT PUBLISH ANY MANGA!!
YOUR FINGERS GET DIRTY, HARDLY ANY OF THE WRITING IS IN KANJI AND THE PANEL LAYOUTS ARE CONFUSING!!
PUBLISHING MANGA SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE CHEAP SISSY PUBLISHERS!!
MR. EDITOR!
BOSS!
I'M TAKING A PAGE FROM YOUR BOOK!

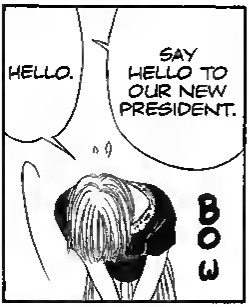
DAD...
...YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE.
I'LL LIVE FOR WHAT I FIND PROFITABLE.
FOR-EVER!
WHETHER YOU'RE AN EDITOR OR A COMPANY PRESIDENT ...
...THE TITLE CARRIES WITH IT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF RISK.
IT'S A HEAVY LOAD TO PULL

BUT...
...IT ALSO COMES WITH GREAT REWARDS.

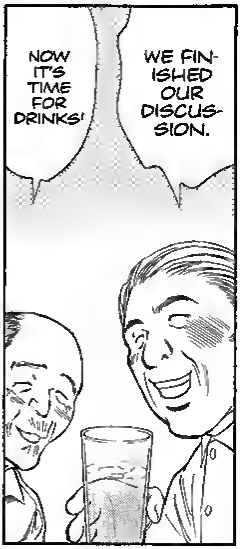

I'm going home.
stopping for sushi and
Natsuki
OH!

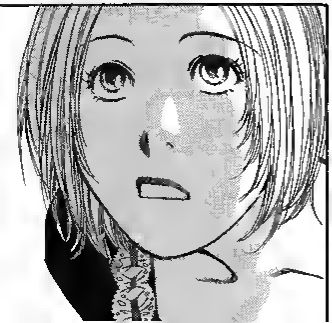
LOOKS LIKE THE PARTY STARTED WITHOUT ME.
OH, YOU MADE IT, NATSUKI-CHAN!

GOOD EVE-NING!!
hff
SORRY I'M LATE TO THE NEIGH-BORHOOD MEETING!!
hff
hff


HELLO.
SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT.
BOW

WE HAD A HARD TIME CHOOSING A NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PRESIDENT.
BUT WE FINALLY FOUND ONE.

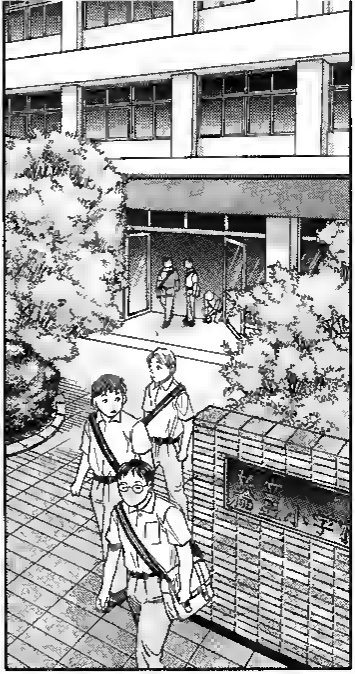

NOW IT'S TIME FOR DRINKS!
WE FIN-ISHED OUR DISCUS-SION.



NO ONE SEEMED TO MIND THAT I'M JUST A BOARDER HERE.
SO...
...I GUESS I'M THE NEW PRESI-DENT. .
The Big Cheese
OH, FOR...
EVERY-THING COMES EASY TO HIM!!
...AT KINGYO USED BOOKS.
Kingyo's Diary
JUST ANOTHER PEACEFUL DAY...

Chapter 27: An Odd Couple

I'LL KILL YOU.
YOU DO AND I'LL STAB YOU IN THE BACK!!

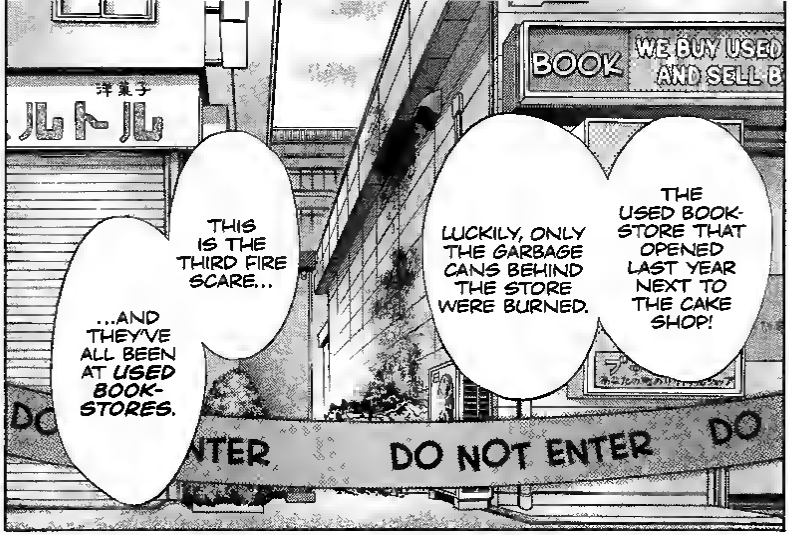

★SIGN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

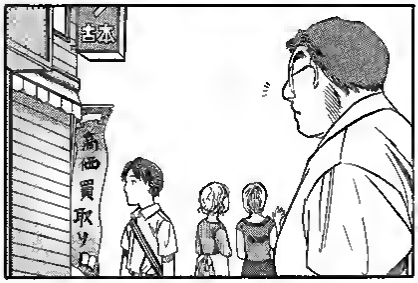
HELLO, KIDS.
GOOD-BYE, KIDS.
WHAT'S THAT TEACHER MUTTERING ABOUT NOW?
WHO KNOWS?

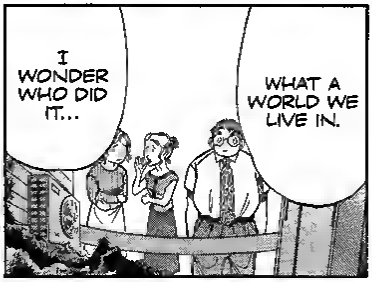
TROUBLE SLEEPING?
YEAH, FOR ABOUT A WEEK NOW.
WHAT ABOUT JUNIOR HIGH ADMISSIONS? IF YOUR BRAIN CELLS STOP WORKING, YOU'RE IN TROUBLE.
THEY ALREADY HAVE.

MAN...
LIFE IS SUCH A DRAG.

GOOD MORNING
YOU'RE EARLY LEAVING THIS MORNING, SASAYAMA-SAN
THOSE SUN-FLOWERS ARE COMING ALONG
I'M WORRIED THE MORNING GLORIES WON'T FLOWER
I'M SURE THEY WILL SOON
BY THE WAY, DID YOU HEAR?
THERE WAS AN ARSON SCARE YESTERDAY IN BROAD DAYLIGHT
ARSON?


BOOK
WE BUY USED AND SELL B
洋菓子
THIS IS THE THIRD FIRE SCARE...
...AND THEY'VE ALL BEEN AT USED BOOK-STORES.
LUCKILY, ONLY THE GARBAGE CANS BEHIND THE STORE WERE BURNED.
THE USED BOOK-STORE THAT OPENED LAST YEAR NEXT TO THE CAKE SHOP!
DO NOT ENTER
DO NOT ENTER

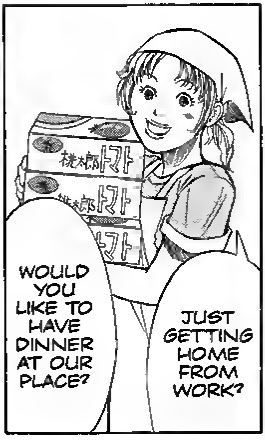

古本
高価買取り


I WONDER WHO DID IT...
WHAT A WORLD WE LIVE IN.

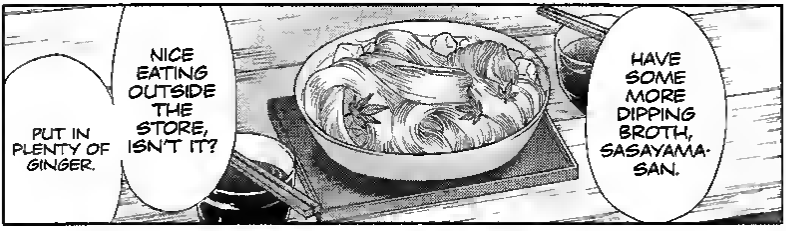
TUP

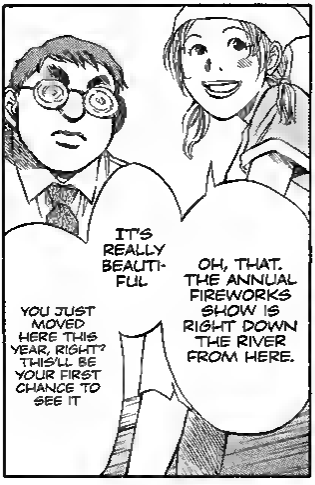
WHAT'S THIS?

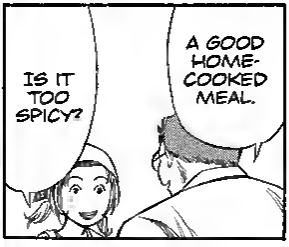
I MADE TOO MANY NOODLES FOR JUST GRANDMA AND ME.


WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE DINNER AT OUR PLACE?
JUST GETTING HOME FROM WORK?

SASA-YAMA-SAN!


PUT IN PLENTY OF GINGER.
NICE EATING OUTSIDE THE STORE, ISN'T IT?
HAVE SOME MORE DIPPING BROTH, SASAYAMA-SAN.


YOU JUST MOVED HERE THIS YEAR, RIGHT? THIS'LL BE YOUR FIRST CHANCE TO SEE IT
IT'S REALLY BEAUTI-FUL
OH, THAT. THE ANNUAL FIREWORKS SHOW IS RIGHT DOWN THE RIVER FROM HERE.

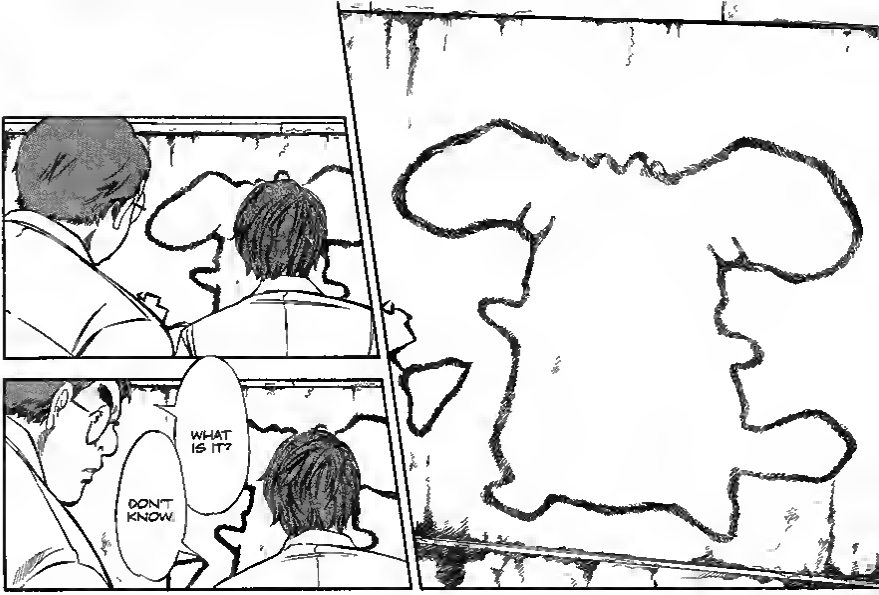

IS IT TOO SPICY?
A GOOD HOME-COOKED MEAL.

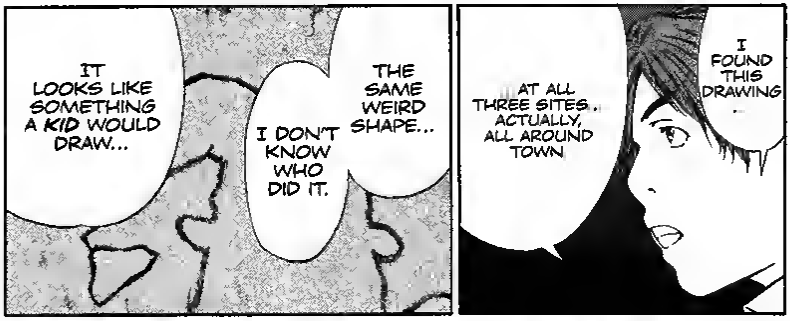
NO, IT'S VERY GO-

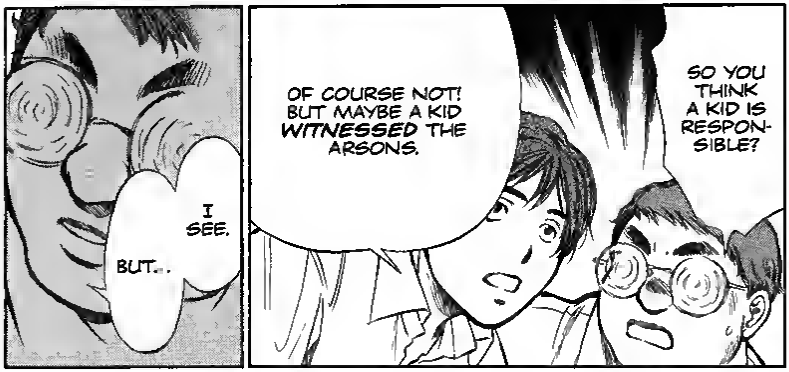
MAYBE YOU CAN ASK SOME FRIENDS TO GO ALONG.
UM...
YES?
MM.. SMELLS GOOD.
THANKS, GRANDMA.
TH-THANK YOU
HAVE SOME TEA
NOTHING...
THANKS FOR DINNER.
EXCUSE ME.
SASAYAMA-SAN?

HEY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING..
...SNOOPING AROUND HERE?
WHO'RE YOU?
YOU'RE NOT...
...THE SERIAL ARSONIST, ARE YOU?

ME? THE ARSONIST?
HA HA! THAT'S A GOOD ONE!
THE ELITE YOUNG STUDENT, CRACKING UNDER EXAM PRESSURE AND LASHING OUT AT AN UNJUST SOCIETY, HUH?
ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING?
WHAT A RUDE LITTLE TWERP.
NAH, I'M HERE TO SOLVE THE CASE.
YOU'RE WHAT?
I SEARCHED THE SCENES OF ALL THREE CRIMES...
...BUT I COULDN'T FIND ANY CLUES.
EXCEPT ONE.
LOOK...
.. AT THIS

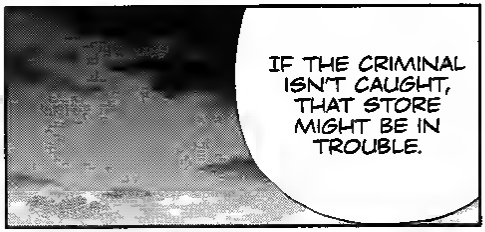

WHAT IS IT?
DON'T KNOW.

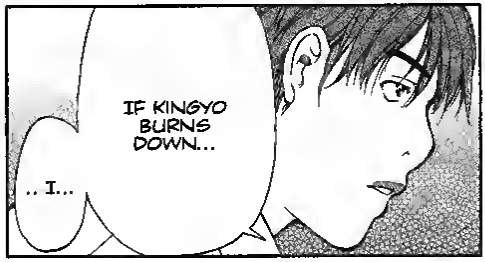

I FOUND THIS DRAWING...
AT ALL THREE SITES... ACTUALLY, ALL AROUND TOWN.
THE SAME WEIRD SHAPE...
I DON'T KNOW WHO DID IT.
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING A KID WOULD DRAW...

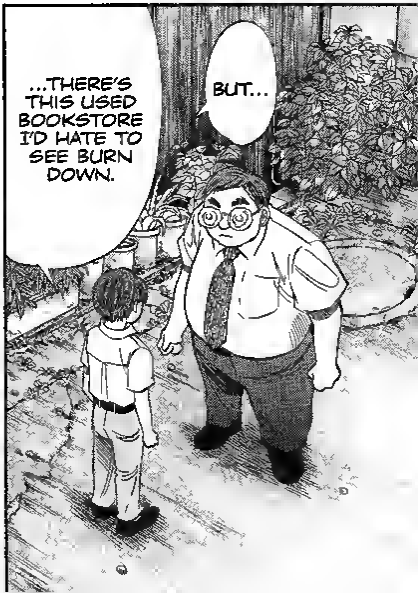

SO YOU THINK A KID IS RESPONSIBLE?
OF COURSE NOT! BUT MAYBE A KID WITNESSED THE ARSONS.
I SEE.
BUT...

..BUT IT COULD BE AN ORIGINAL DESIGN.
LOOKS FAMILIAR..
WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE THERE'S A MANGA CHARACTER SHAPED LIKE THIS
...JUST WHAT IS THIS A DRAWING OF?
...ESPECIALLY GIRLS' MANGA
I KNOW ABOUT ANYTHING PUBLISHED BEFORE 1965
HOW FAR DO YOU HAVE TO GO BACK?
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT RECENT MANGA.
SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.
THAT'S AROUND WHEN MY MOM WAS BORN.
YEAH?
SAY, KID...
IT'S GETTING PRETTY DARK.
YEAH.

A LITTLE BOY SHOULDN'T STICK HIS NOSE INTO SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST A SPOILED RICH KID LOOKING FOR KICKS
..BUT DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID. LEAVE IT TO THE POLICE, OKAY?


IF THE CRIMINAL ISN'T CAUGHT, THAT STORE MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE.


IF KINGYO BURNS DOWN...
.. I...


BUT...
...THERE'S THIS USED BOOKSTORE I'D HATE TO SEE BURN DOWN.

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...
...KINGYO USED BOOKS?
YOU KNOW KINGYO, OLD MAN?
DON'T CALL ME THAT!
I SEE...
YOU TOO, HUH?

SASA-YAMA-SAN!
SA-CHIKO-SAN.
YOU LEFT IN SUCH A HURRY.
SORRY.
HERE, TAKE A MELON FROM THE STORE.
YOU TAKE ONE TOO.
THANKS
OH, LOOK AT THIS!
IT'S MOTO-CHAN!
HOW CUTE! IT LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM
MOTO-CHAN?

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
COULDN'T SLEEP AGAIN LAST NIGHT.
SACHIKO-SAN LOANED ME A COPY.
FIND IT?
DON'T CALL ME THAT EITHER.
HEY, BRO.
HEY.
JUST MY KIND OF MANGA.
DID YOU READ IT?
HERE.
MOTO-CHAN
YUP.
16
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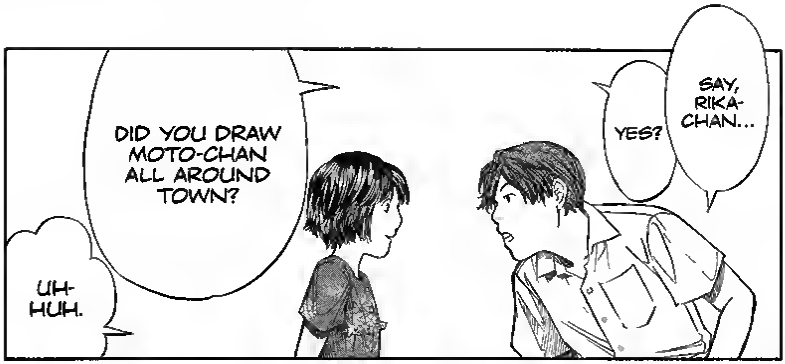
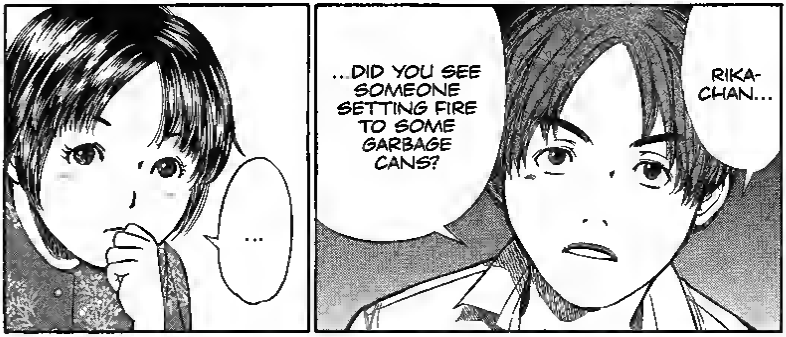
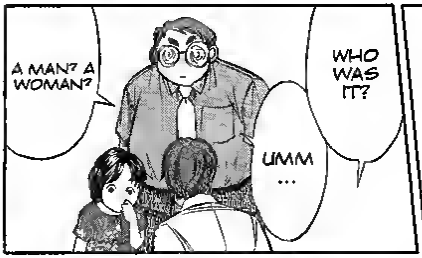
TOTTEMO SHIAWASE MOTO-CHAN... "A VERY HAPPY MOTO-CHAN."
ARE YOU HAPPY?
WHAT?
I'M OKAY...I GUESS
UH-HUH...
MIND IF I READ THIS?
GO AHEAD
HAPPY...
ZHAAA

ZZZZ
MY MOMMY HAS THIS BOOK!
MOTO-CHAN'S SOOO CUTE!
OHH! IT'S MOTO-CHAN!
I CAN DRAW MOTO-CHAN.
YOU KNOW WHAT?
KA KA KA KA KA
OH...


SAY, RIKA-CHAN...
YES?
DID YOU DRAW MOTO-CHAN ALL AROUND TOWN?
UH-HUH.

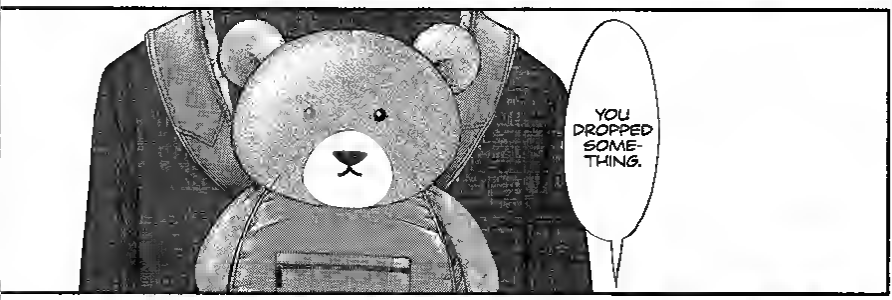

RIKA-CHAN...
...DID YOU SEE SOMEONE SETTING FIRE TO SOME GARBAGE CANS?
...


WHO WAS IT?
UMM ...
A MAN? A WOMAN?

YEAH! I DID!

...IT WAS A MAN.
WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE?

HE HAD...
...A BEAR BACK-PACK!
WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?


YOU DROPPED SOME-THING.

HIYA, TEACH
THIS YOUR LIGHT-ER?

SIX MONTHS AFTER YOU QUIT SMOKING
TEACH?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING WITH A LIGHTER...
THANKS, TSUJI-MOTO-KUN.
OH, IT'S YOU.
...
DID US DISRESPECTFUL, STUCK-UP STUDENTS GET TO YOU?
OR WAS IT THE PRESSURE OF NOT BEING ABLE TO RAISE OUR STAN-DARDIZED TEST SCORES?
WHY ARE YOU SETTING FIRE TO BOOKSTORES ALL AROUND TOWN?

I'D FEEL GUILTY SETTING FIRE TO A STORE THAT SELLS NEW THINGS.
...I'M A CONSCIENTIOUS MAN.
DaK
NOBODY CARES IF THEY GO UP IN FLAMES... RIGHT?
USED BOOKS HAVE ALREADY SERVED THEIR PURPOSE.
STOP!!

YIPE!
DOOM
BADOOM!
WHOA! HOW'D YOU JUMP THAT FAR?
OWWW...
ZIK

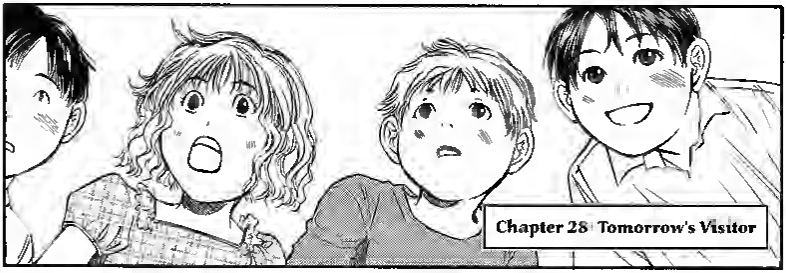
I WAS ON THE GYMNASTICS TEAM IN SCHOOL.
THANKS FOR THE MANGA...
...SA-CHIKO-SAN.
SO...
... UM ...
ABOUT THE FIRE-WORKS SHOW.
BWWP
THANKS, SASA-YAMA-SAN
BACK UP!
OVER HERE, DRIVER!
MOVERS
WE'RE CLOSING UP SHOP AND MOVING, SASA-YAMA-SAN.
WHAT?

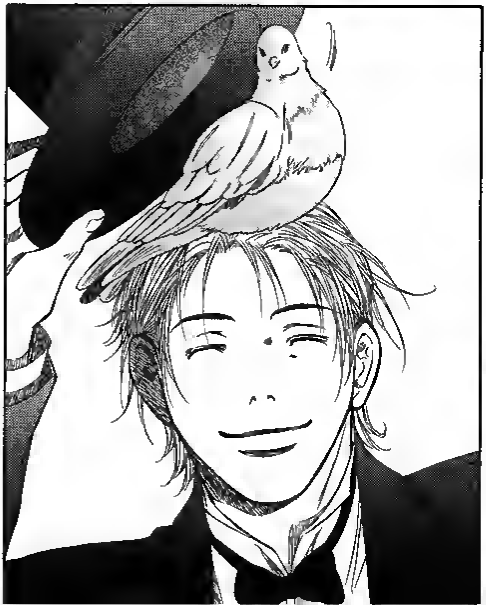
I REGRET CLOSING THE STORE, BUT...
OH, I DIDN'T KNOW.
THEN...
...TO MOVE TO A PLACE WHERE SHE CAN GET TREATMENT.
GRANDMA'S SICK, SO WE DECIDED...
I WANT THAT MOTO-CHAN BOOK!
HUH?
I WANT IT I WANT IT I WANT IT...
SASAYAMA-SAN! SASAYAMA-SAN!
WHAT IS IT NOW?
I CAN'T GET TO SLEEP WITHOUT MY SPECIAL PILLOW...
...OR WITHOUT READING THAT BOOK.
NO, I WANT THAT BOOK!!
FINE! I'LL BUY YOU A COPY LATER!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
I WANT IT I WANT IT I WANT IT.
LOOK...
IT'S OKAY, SASA-YAMA-SAN.

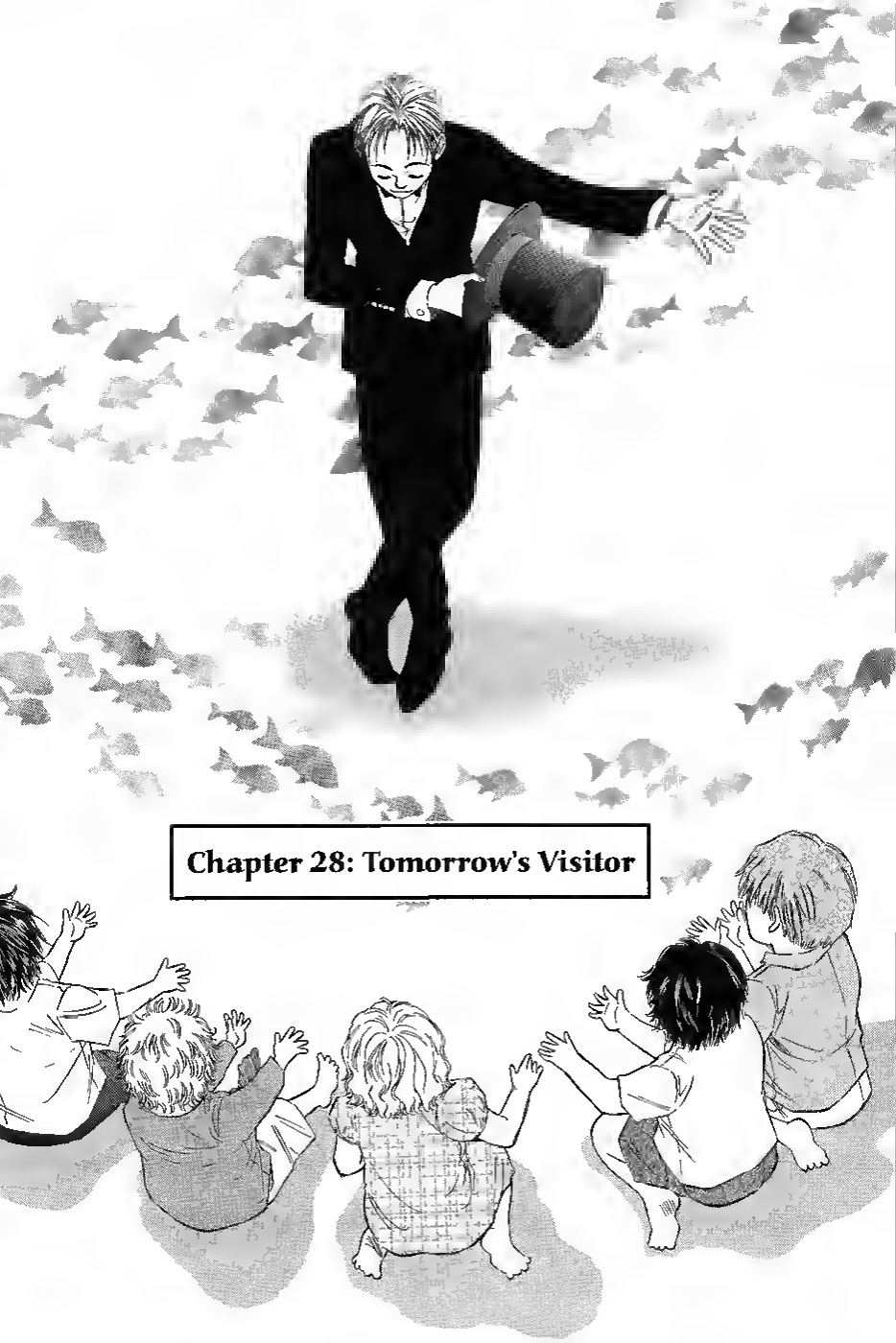
HERE YOU GO.
IT'S YOURS NOW.
REALLY?
AW, MAN, THANKS!
ER SORRY ABOUT THAT.
THAT'S OKAY. TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT!
SURE!
BYE-BYE, SASA-YAMA-SAN.
VROOM
TAKE CARE.
YOU CAN HAVE THIS.
WHAT?
KEEP IT AS A MEMORY OF HER.
HOW ARE YOU GONNA GET TO SLEEP?
I CAN BUY MY OWN COPY.
AND I SLEEP FINE WITH ANY OLD PILLOW.

WELL...
...WE'RE KINDA LIKE MOTO-CHAN AND JOHNNY WALKER.
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
WHAT?
THIS COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP.

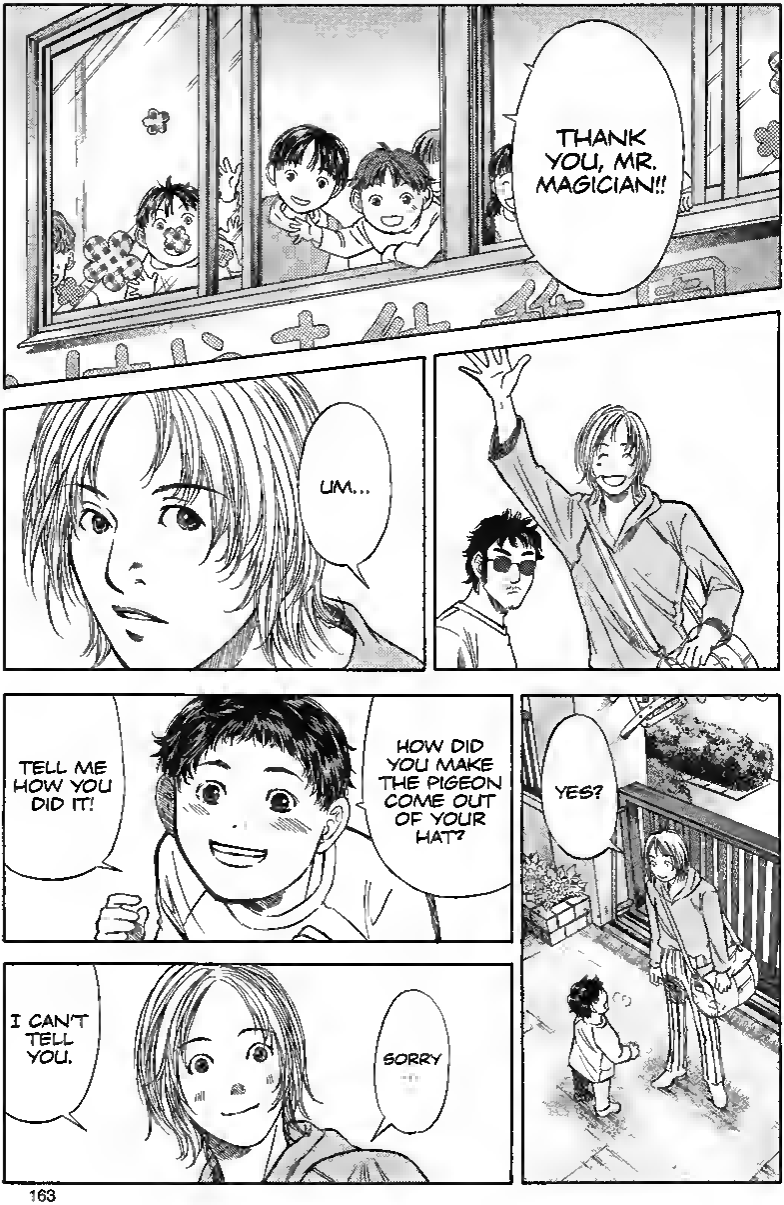
POP!
POP!
POP
POP
POP!


Chapter 28 Tomorrow's Visitor



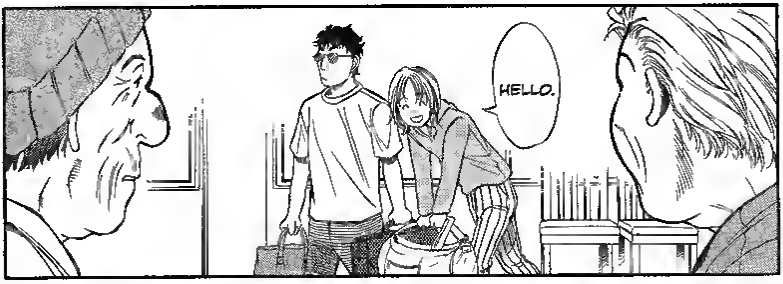


Chapter 28: Tomorrow's Visitor

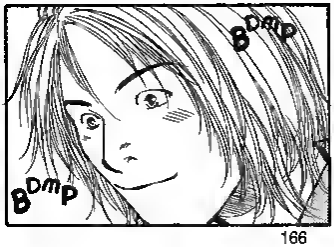

THANK YOU, MR. MAGICIAN!!
UM...
HOW DID YOU MAKE THE PIGEON COME OUT OF YOUR HAT?
TELL ME HOW YOU DID IT!
YES?
SORRY
I CAN'T TELL YOU.

SEE YA! BYE!
BYE!
LET'S GO, AKIRA!
WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO GIVE AWAY OUR SECRETS.
IT'S THE MAGICIANS' CODE.
OH...
NICE JOB.
THANKS.
Bam!
HIKARIGAOKA NURSING HOME
VROOM
WHERE TO NEXT, YOSUKE?

I NEVER KNOW WHAT THEY'RE THINKING.
TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT THAT GREAT WITH OLD PEOPLE.
A NURSING HOME? THAT'S A FIRST.
SPECIAL NEEDS?
NO, JUST AN ADULT CARE FACILITY.
TRAVELING FAR AND WIDE IN OUR VAN.
WAN-DERING PERFOR-MERS...
WE'RE MERE...
WE GO WHERE THERE'S WORK


HELLO.

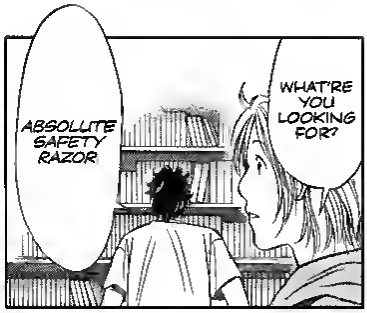
. AND I DIDN'T SEE MUCH OF MY GRANDPARENTS IN THE COUNTRY.
I GREW UP AN ONLY CHILD IN THE CITY. .
WAITING ROOM

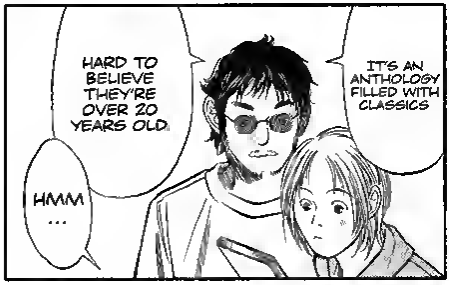

B DMP
B DMP

MAYBE IT'D HELP TO THINK OF THEM AS KIDS.
SOME OF THEM START ACTING LIKE CHILDREN AGAIN.
.. I DON'T THINK IT WORKS LIKE THAT.
NO...
ALL RIGHT.
THERE'S A RESTAURANT NEAR THE STATION. IF YOU BRING BACK A RECEIPT ...
EXCUSE ME.
OH...
THERE WAS A MIX-UP. WE DIDN'T MAKE A LUNCH FOR YOU.

I'M NERVOUS ABOUT TODAY'S SHOW.
HOW COME?
HARD TO SAY. I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND THE RIGHT WAY TO APPROACH THIS GIG.
I HOPE I DON'T SCREW UP.
SKREEEE
WHOA!
WH-WHAT'S UP, YOSUKE?
A USED BOOK-STORE
A BOOK-STORE?
NOT A RESTAUR-ANT?
BEEP BEEP BEEP

Kinggo Used Books
WELCOME.
WE JUST BOUGHT SOME NEW STOCK!
IT HASN'T BEEN SORTED YET, BUT PLEASE LOOK AROUND.
THANKS
WOW.. LOOK AT ALL THIS MANGA.





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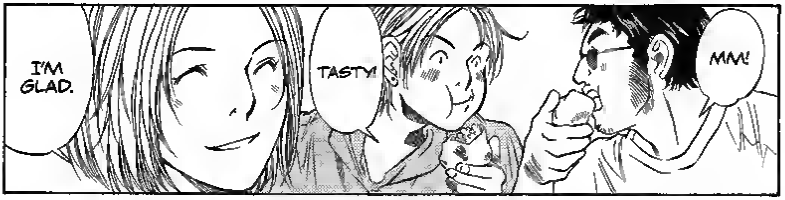
OUR BOARDER IS OUT AT A NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING, SO HELP YOURSELF.
WOW! LOOKS DELI-CIOUS!

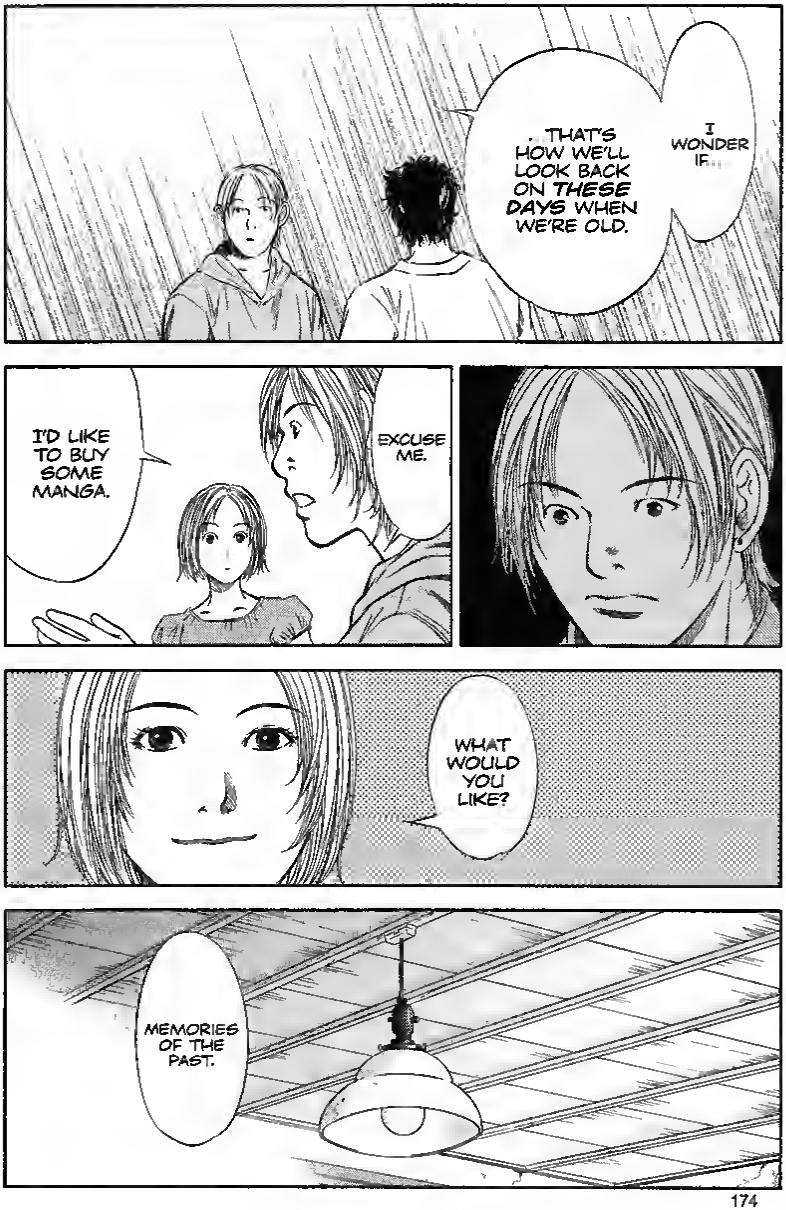

I'M GLAD.
TASTY!
MM!

OH YEAH?
THERE'S A STORY IN HERE CALLED "TANABE NO TSURU."

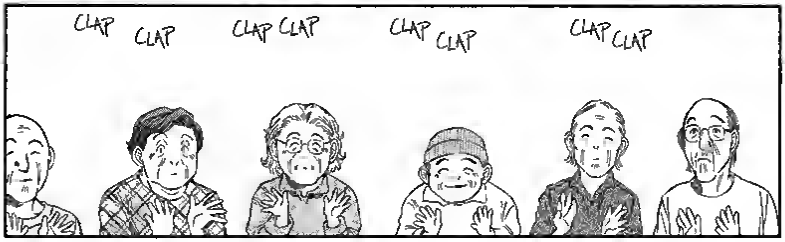
OH YEAH...

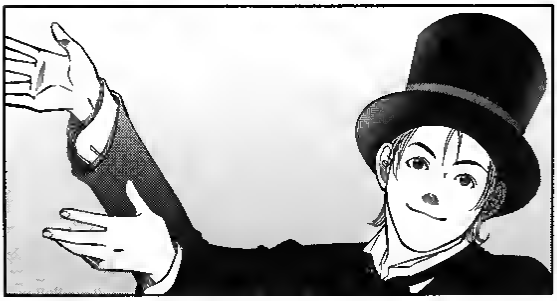
IT'S ABOUT A CUTE LITTLE GIRL... WITH AN OLD-FASHIONED BOW IN HER HAIR.
SWEET AS YOU PLEASE
BUT INSIDE THAT GIRL'S BODY IS TSURU TANABE..
EH?
..AN 82-YEAR-OLD WOMAN.
SHE'S BEEN REINCAR-NATED AS A CHILD.
A CHILD.
BUT NOT A REAL CHILD.

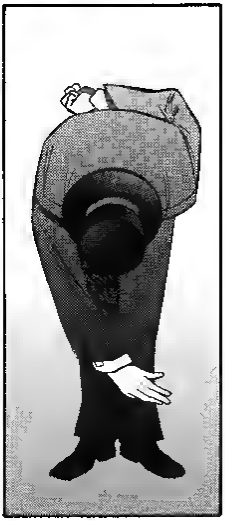
...MANY YEARS.
MANY...
SHE RETAINS THE MEMORY OF ALL THE YEARS SHE'S LIVED.
...BUT IT'S TOLD IN A REALLY SIMPLE, STRAIGHT-FORWARD WAY.
...HAS A HAUNTING DEPTH TO IT...
THE STORY...
YEAH. .
...IT'S KIND OF LIKE THE WAY YOU REMEMBER YOUR CHILDHOOD.
COME TO THINK OF IT...

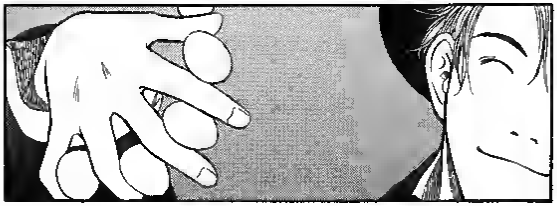

I WONDER IF...
...THAT'S HOW WE'LL LOOK BACK ON THESE DAYS WHEN WE'RE OLD.
EXCUSE ME.
I'D LIKE TO BUY SOME MANGA.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
MEMORIES OF THE PAST.

MAGIC SHOW


CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP





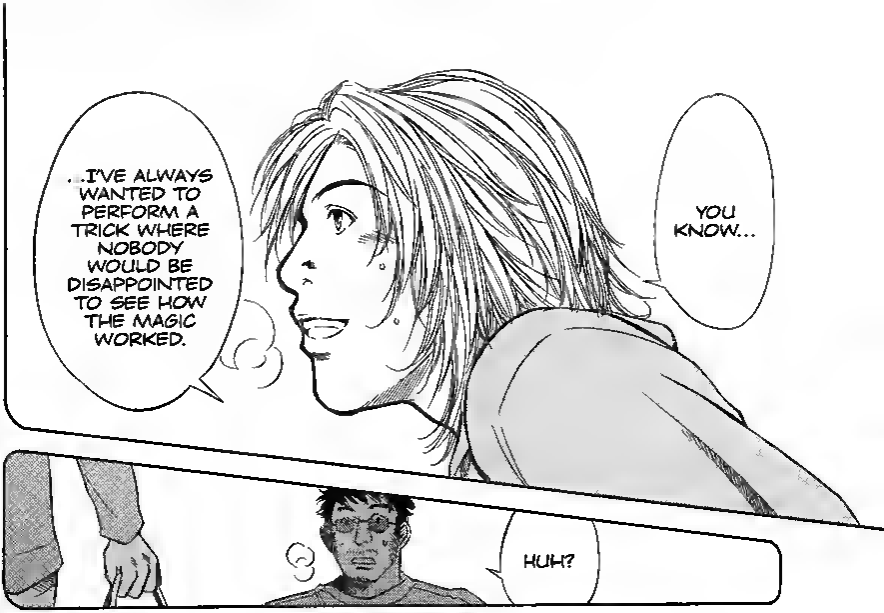


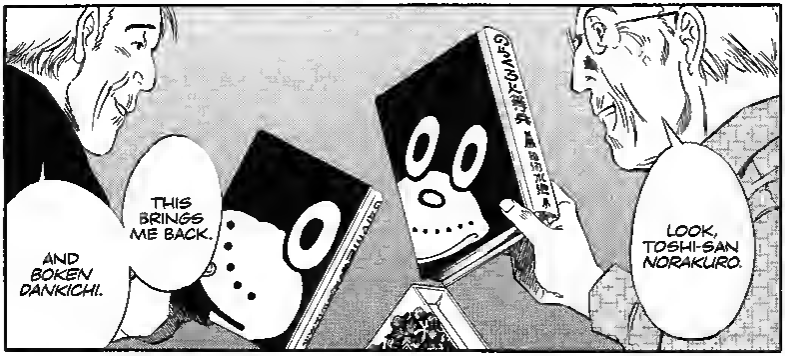
WSSH

MAGIC SHOW
WOOSH

横山光輝
愛蔵版初期作品集
11
竜神の剣
首無しの剣

HOW ARE YOU GONNA USE THEM IN YOUR ACT?
YOU SURE YOU WANT ALL OF THESE?





STUDY!

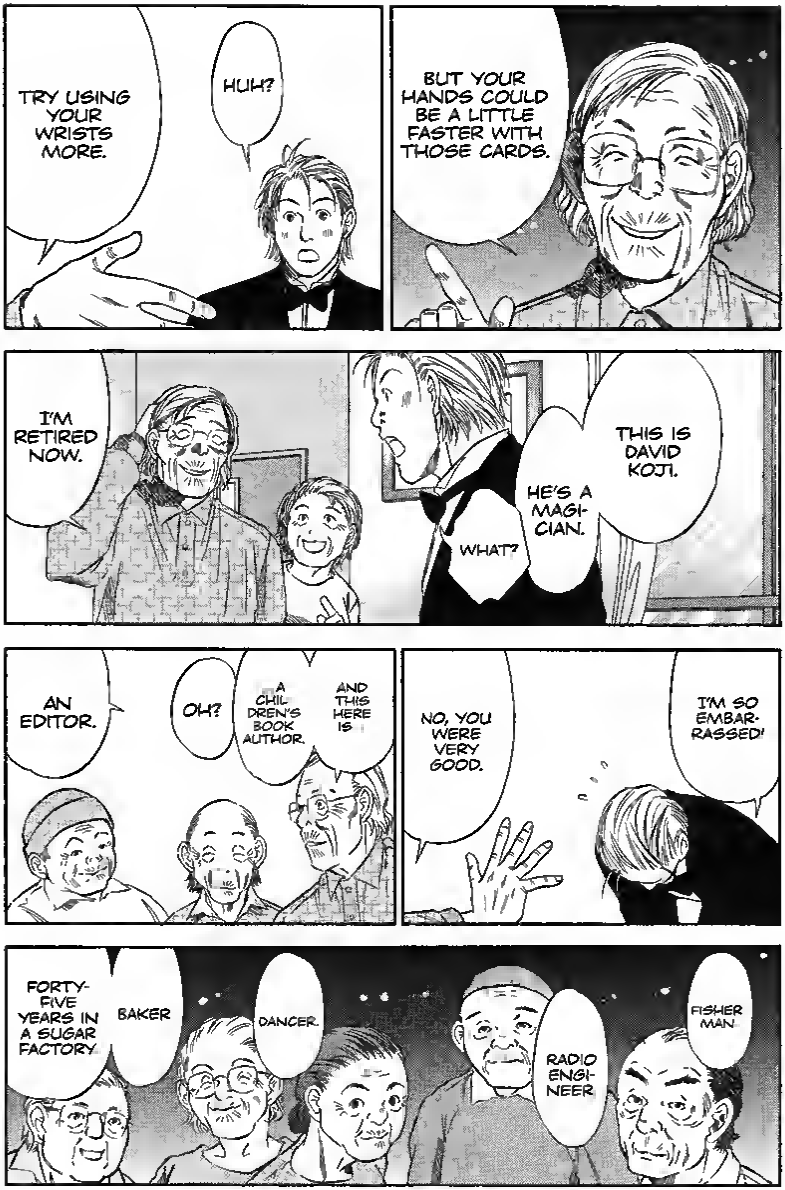
NORAKURO, BY YUHKO TAGAWA, SERIALIZED IN TOBANSHA'S SHONEN CLUB FROM 1931. THE STORY OF A BLACK DOG NAMED NORAKURO (STRAY) AND HIS MASTER, TOSHI-SAN. THE MANGA WAS ADAPTED FOR ANIMATION BY MASAO HOKI, CLAIMED AS THE FIRST FULL-LENGTH ANIMATED FEATURE FILM IN JAPAN. HOKI'S FILM WAS ACCIDENTALLY BURNED IN A FIRE IN 1945.

SHO CHAN'S HAT REFERS TO THE KUKI CAP POPULARIZED BY THE PROTAGONIST OF SHO-CHAN NO BOKEN (THE ADVENTURES OF SHO CHAN) STORY BY HOSEI, ART BY TOKUHN, FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1923.

STUDY!

SAKURA NAMIKI (CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES) BY MAKOTO TAKAHASHI. PUBLISHED IN 1952 BY KENBUNSHA. A STORY ABOUT BALLET AND FRIENDSHIP AT A GIRLS' SCHOOL. REPRINTED BY HOGAKUKAN TOGETHER WITH TAKAHASHI'S *PARIS-TOKYO* (THE RIGHT-HAND MANGA ON PAGE 177, PANEL 3), IN 2006.

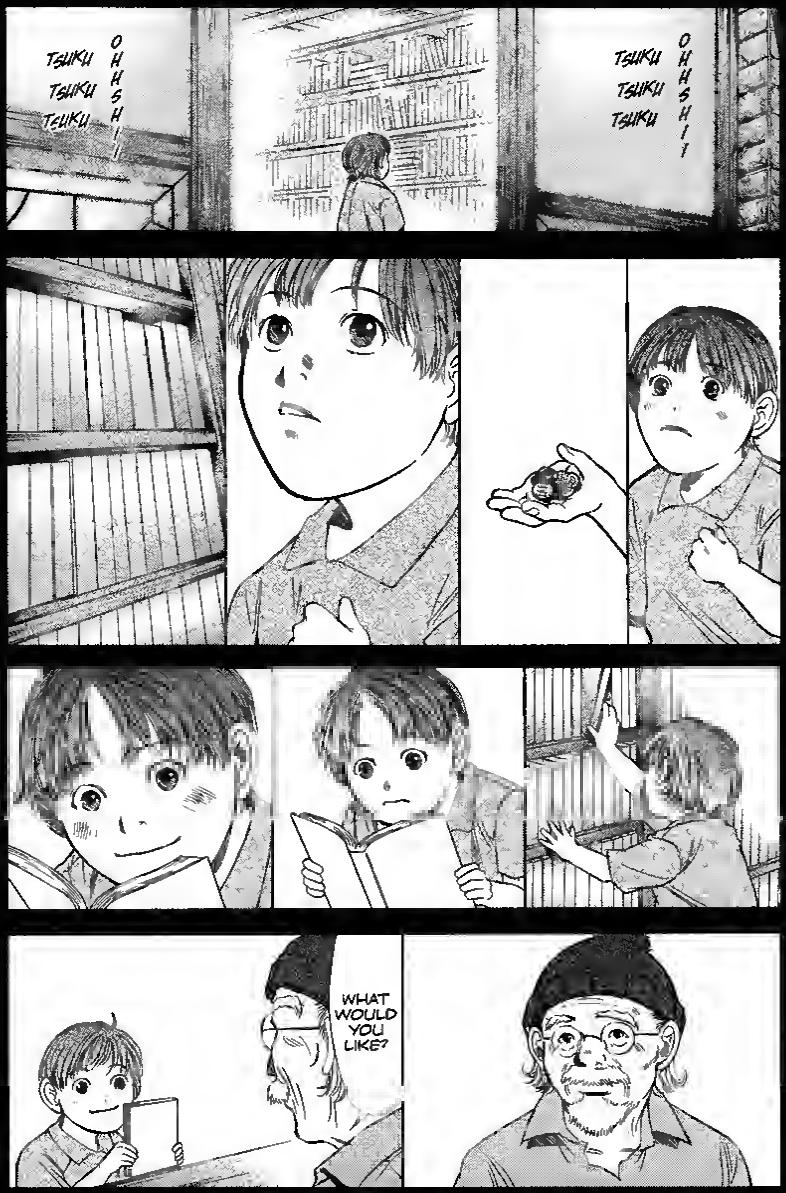
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP!!
TA
DA
TH.. THANKS.
WELL DONE, YOUNG MAN.


TRY USING YOUR WRISTS MORE.
HUH?
BUT YOUR HANDS COULD BE A LITTLE FASTER WITH THOSE CARDS.
I'M RETIRED NOW.
WHAT?
HE'S A MAGI-CIAN.
THIS IS DAVID KOJI.
AN EDITOR.
OH?
A CHIL-DREN'S BOOK AUTHOR.
AND THIS HERE IS
NO, YOU WERE VERY GOOD.
I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED!
FORTY-FIVE YEARS IN A SUGAR FACTORY.
BAKER
DANCER.
RADIO ENGI-NEER
FISHER MAN.

...THE INDELIBLE ACCUMULATION OF TIME.
THEY HAVE ALL THE EXPERIENCE OF THE YEARS THEY'VE LIVED...
WE CLEANED THE MACHINERY AND EVERYTHING OURSELVES
...MANY YEARS.
MANY...
OH...
THE SUGAR WAS BROUGHT DIRECTLY TO THE SEASIDE FACTORY BY TANKER
...THE MEMORIES OF EACH AND EVERY MANGA.
AND WITH THEM...

...JUST A SPOONFUL.
LET'S SPRINKLE SOME MAGIC...
HERE
I'M BY YOUR SIDE.
ALWAYS AND FOREVER.
...NO MATTER WHAT!
I'M HERE...

I'M EVERY-
WHERE.
WHEREVER
YOU MAY
BE.
I'LL PAY
ANYONE A
VISIT.


TSUKU TSUKU TSUKU OHSHI!
TSUKU TSUKU TSUKU OHSHI!
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?

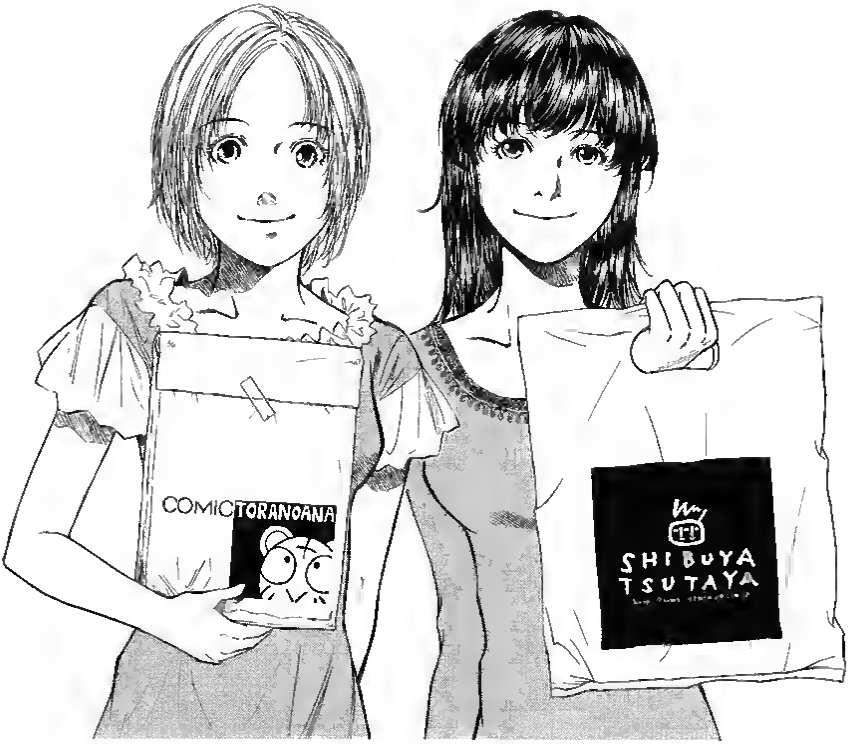
...ALWAYS BEGIN HERE.

EVERLASTING MEMORIES OF MANGA...

Kingyo Used Books

SERIES: JAPAN'S BOOKSTORE BAGS
SEIMU YOSHIZAKI DESIGNED STORE DISPLAYS FEATURING SHOPPING BAGS FROM VARIOUS BOOKSTORES. FOLLOWING THE "BOOKSTORE COVER" SERIES FEATURED IN VOLUME 3, HERE ARE THREE BOOKSTORE BAG DESIGNS!

VILLAGE VANGUARD



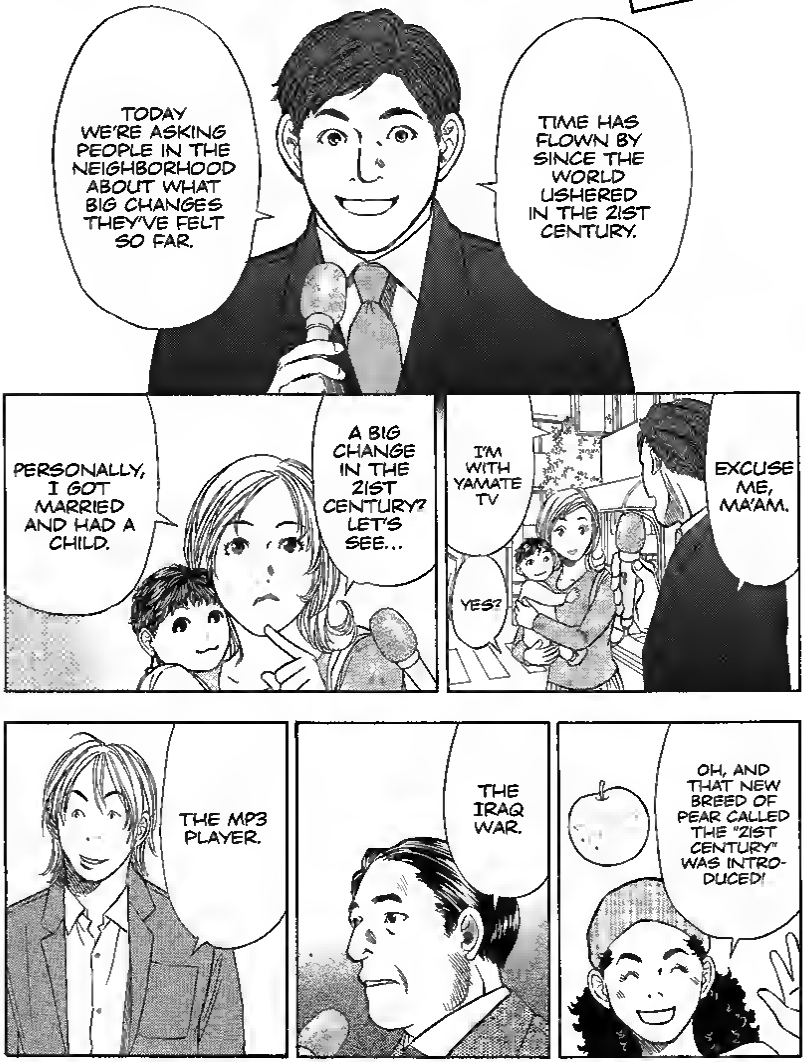
TORANOANA | SHIBUYA TSUTAYA

Kingyo
Used Books
JAPAN'S BOOKSTORE BAGS

A 21st Century Gift

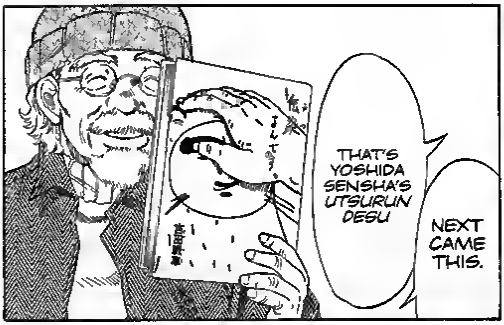
Billy and Grandpa's Curious Travelogue

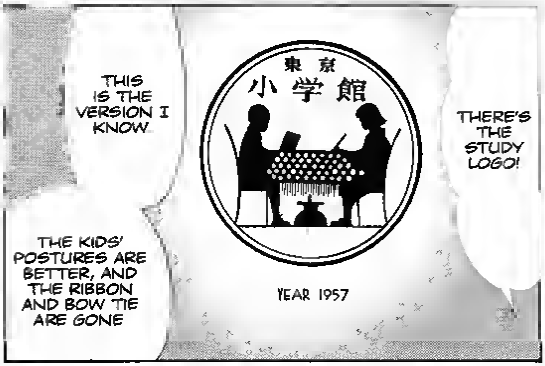
Episode 4

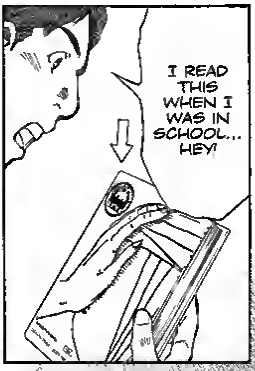

TODAY WE'RE ASKING PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD ABOUT WHAT BIG CHANGES THEY'VE FELT SO FAR.
TIME HAS FLOWN BY SINCE THE WORLD USHERED IN THE 21ST CENTURY.
PERSONALLY, I GOT MARRIED AND HAD A CHILD.
A BIG CHANGE IN THE 21ST CENTURY? LET'S SEE...
I'M WITH YAMATE TV
EXCUSE ME, MA'AM.
YES?
THE MP3 PLAYER.
THE IRAQ WAR.
OH, AND THAT NEW BREED OF PEAR CALLED THE "21ST CENTURY" WAS INTRODUCED!

HELLO! EXCUSE ME!
YES?
YES.
A BIG CHANGE IN THE 21ST CENTURY?
I DON'T KNOW, MYSELF.
I'M NOT THE TYPE TO GO ALONG WITH THE CHANGING TIMES.
GRAND-PA?
HMM...
WELL, THE STUDY LOGO WAS UPDATED.
THE "STUDY LOGO"?
WHAT'S THAT?

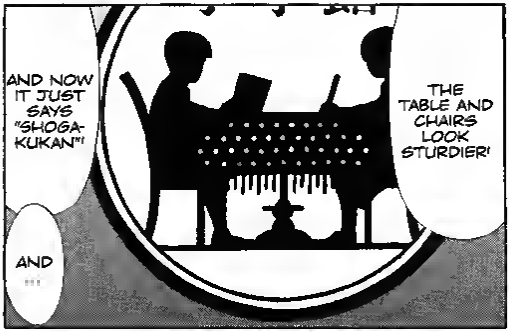
TEXT IN LOGO TOKYO, SHOGAKUKAN PUBLICATIONS

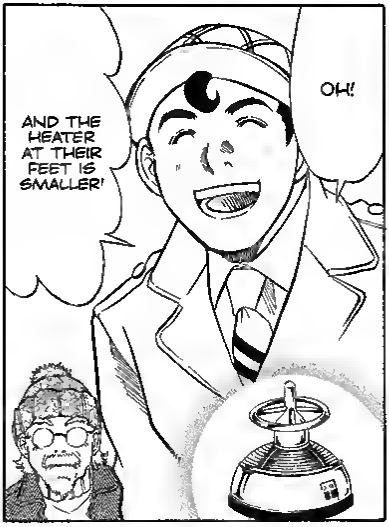


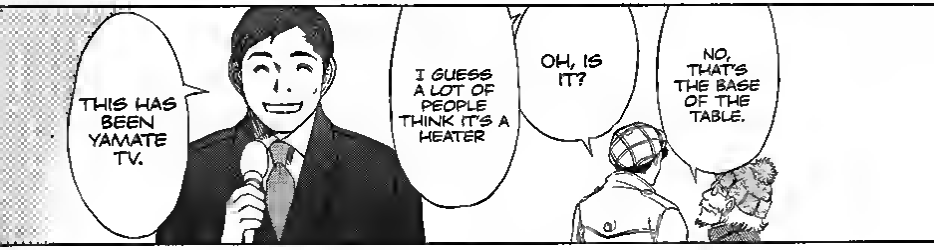

THIS IS THE VERSION I KNOW
東京
小学館
THERE'S THE STUDY LOGO!
THE KIDS' POSTURES ARE BETTER, AND THE RIBBON AND BOW TIE ARE GONE
YEAR 1957



THE [illegible] LOGO USED TODAY
YEAR: 2009







A SCREENSAVER OF THE STUDY LOGO CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT THIS WEBSITE

HTTP://WWW.NETKUN.COM/DIGITAL/DESKTOP/SCREEN/INDEX.HTM

IKKI COMIX
Manga Fool Festival
KINGYO USED BOOKS
Seimu Yoshizaki 1~3
This is my pledge!!
A manga-loving fool will appear at least once every three pages in this manga. What? Once every page, you say?
Noramimi is sooo cute!
IKKI
IKKI

BONUS IMAGE FOR BOOKSTORE DISPLAY 4

KINGYO USED BOOKS NOTEBOOK

More useful information about the manga found on the shelves of **Kingyo Used Books**!

Text by Hiroshi Hashimoto.

Born in 1948 in Kumamoto, Japan. Owner of the used bookstore Kirara Bunko. Aside from running his bookstore, he also teaches at a preparatory school and is active in a nonprofit organization. Fellow alumni of his elementary school include manga commentators Hiroshi Yonezawa and Yukari Fujimoto. His dream is to build a manga library in Aso. Hashimoto was asked to write this column when being interviewed for information for this series.

© Go Nagai/Dynamic Production 2007
© 永井豪／ダイナミックプロダクション 2007

This series is featured in Chapter 22:
Devil Power

Devilman (5 volumes)

By Go Nagai

Published by Kodansha beginning in 1972

"Do you have any good manga you can recommend?" is the single question I've heard most frequently during my nearly 20 years managing a manga bookstore in Kumamoto. At that point, I ask the customer about the intended reader's age, sex, education or profession and hobbies, as well as favorite authors, mangaka and music. Since people have different definitions of "good," it's a difficult question to answer without knowing something about the reader

Of course, my own criterion for what constitutes a good manga is quite clear: it's whether or not the story has a satisfying ending. If I were to name three manga with truly satisfying endings that I've come across in all my years of reading, they would have to be *Ashita no Joe* (Tomorrow's Joe) (story by Asao Takamori, art by Tetsuya Chiba), *Kozure Okami* (Lone Wolf and Cub) (story by Kazuo Koike, art by Goseki Kojima), and Go Nagai's *Devilman*, featured in this chapter

In particular, *Devilman* succeeds in capturing the author's unique postapocalyptic vision in five short tankobon volumes, leaving readers traumatized and influencing generations of writers here and abroad. The last scene, especially, is one of the great unforgettable endings, which is precisely why I've recommended the series to so many people as an undisputed classic

Based on *Maoh Dante* (Demon Lord Dante), an earlier Nagai manga about the final battle between God and the devil serialized in *Bokura Magazine*, *Devilman* ran simultaneously as an anime and as a manga in Kodansha's *Shonen Magazine* from 1972 to 1973. You can read the series today through the Kodansha Manga Bunko series. Apparently enamored with his role-reversal of the villainous God and good devil, Nagai went on to create spinoffs and original titles with the same theme, including *Shin Devilman* (New Devilman), *Violence Jack*, *Devilman Lady*, *Shin Violence Jack* (New Violence Jack), and *AMON Devilman Mokujiroku* (Amon: The Apocalypse of Devilman).

An increasing number of readers lament the paucity of "good" manga today While it's true that overall sales of manga magazines have declined, there are still plenty of great individual manga out there, not to mention many classic manga yet to be rediscovered. For those of you searching for a good manga, why not head down to Kingyo's dungeon and look for a manga or two that sparks your interest?

※ The setting and plot of the *Devilman* anime and manga are vastly different.

This manga is featured in Chapter 23:
A Man Ahead of His Time

Kibun wa Mou Senso (1 volume)

Story by Toshihiko Yahagi, art by Katsuhiro Otomo

Published by Futabasha in 1982

The generation born between 1947 and 1949, known as the baby boom generation, is about to reach retirement age. The people of this generation have lived with manga since the dawn of the postwar manga boom and continue to embrace manga to this day, even as they've been derided as the generation that can't grow up. Okadome's father, appearing for the first time in this chapter, and his friend Kunimoto are both baby boomers. Having lived through campus uprisings and having discovered jazz, leftist ideology and manga during their college days in the 1960s, the two continue to fight losing battles throughout their lives. Now they're about to turn 60 without having grown very adept at surviving the times.

Both men mention *Kibun wa Mou Senso* (In the Mood for War or Already at War) as a shared memory. Okadome and Kunimoto identify with the depictions of characters rushing into war for different personal reasons, having been embroiled in the 1960s campus uprisings—now a precious shared experience for both men. This 1982 manga was released during the prime of mangaka Katsuhiro Otomo's career, along with his renowned titles *Domu* (A Child's Dream) and *AKIRA*, and is currently available from Futabasha and Kadokawa Shoten.

Katsuhiro Otomo was greatly influenced by French comic artist Moebius (Jean Giraud), featured in volume 1 of *Kingyo Used Books*, and Otomo's un-Japanese bold visual compositions and minutely detailed backgrounds had an immeasurable impact on the manga world. Even Osamu Tezuka, always pursuing new styles of expression in keeping with the changing times, realized all of his previous work had become history the moment he saw Otomo's artwork and said, "I surrender unconditionally before Otomo-san's work."

Truth be told, I'm also a baby boomer, born in 1948. I belong to a generation that's perpetually preoccupied with Kagemaru's last words in Sanpei Shirato's *Ninja Bugeicho* (Band of Ninja): "Where did we come from, and where are we going?" Having picked fights with our parents, universities, society, Japan and the world, and having said stuff like, "Demand solidarity, fear not isolation," in our youth, can we continue to stay connected to others and fight for our beliefs? I believe the answer has to be somewhere in the books we've already read and forgotten. Perhaps you'd like to open the time capsule of books at Kingyo to search for the answer and revisit that era again.

© Rumiko Takahashi

This series is featured in Chapter 24:
A Common Language

Ranma 1/2 (38 volumes)

By Rumiko Takahashi

Published by Shogakukan beginning in 1988

The series featured in this chapter, Rumiko Takahashi's *Ranma 1/2*, is, along with *Doraemon*, Shogakukan's most enormously popular flagship series. Appealing to the tween crowd, a decidedly younger readership than that of Takahashi's previous manga *Urusei Yatsura*, *Ranma 1/2* gained widespread popularity through an anime series, character merchandise, music and animated features. In addition, with the anime series televised overseas and the manga translated in over 20 countries, there are *Ranma* fans all over the world. *Ranma 1/2* truly has become synonymous with Japanese manga.

The manga is a slapstick comedy about Ranma Saotome, a teenage boy who turns into a girl when doused with water, and his bride-to-be Akane Tendo, along with Akane's sisters Kasumi and Nabiki and their friend Ryoga Hibiki. The diverse cast of characters and abundance of cursed hot springs with transformative powers combine to create Rumiko's intricately woven comedy world.

The manga began serialization in *Shonen Sunday* in 1987 and held on to its top manga status for nearly 10 years without ever losing steam during its run, which speaks to the manga's quality. You can read the 38-volume series in a new tankobon edition re-released by Shogakukan in 2002.

Why was the manga so popular with kids? I think the answer is in the dual personalities of the characters. Through the strange powers of the hot springs, Ranma Saotome turns into the female Ranma, his father Genma into a panda, and Ryoga into P-chan the pig. For kids feeling constrained by the restrictions of childhood, having another identity, entirely different from one's own, must seem immensely appealing. The manga was especially popular among girls who fantasized about changing who they were.

Incidentally, each chapter of *Kingyo* has featured interesting developments in the human relationships surrounding Kingyo Used Books. Sudo-kun is crazy about Kinko-chan, the manga-loving regular, but he can't seem to carry on an extended conversation with her. He gets it into his head that he can't talk to her because they lack a common language. However, common ground isn't so easy to find, no matter how much two people love manga. That's because it has no fixed form.

When Kinko-chan pulls out a volume of *Ranma 1/2*, grade school memories come flooding back to both of them. Once they are able to recall how much they loved and laughed over manga back then, there is no need for words. What's important isn't finding the right words, but capturing the right spirit. Sudo-kun seems to have come to that realization with the help of this manga.

In the same way, people who are helplessly in love with manga gather at Kingyo, searching for the right spirit. Why don't you come down to Kingyo to get together with these lovable manga freaks?

© Masako Watanabe
© わたなべまさこ

This manga is featured in Chapter 25: Beautiful People

Kaiki Roman Kessakushu (1 volume)

By Masako Watanabe

Published by Kodansha in 1974

This chapter of *Kingyo Used Books* introduces an unusual number of vintage manga. First is a classic loaner manga from Minoru Mori, pen name of the science fiction writer Sakyo Komatsu: *Daichiteikai* (Subterrocean), the first manga to deal with evolution and geotectonic changes. Said to be the model for the bestselling disaster epic *Nippon Chinbotsu* (Japan Sinks), it's a very rare book, with only a few confirmed copies in existence today. This chapter also casually mentions several vintage manga by Taku Horie, Kinya Ueki, Eiichi Fukui and Keiko Sugimoto, all currently sought after in the used-book world.

The recommended work this time is "*Shiroi Chameleon*" (The White Chameleon), first published in the 6/19/73 issue of *Shojo Friend*, which appears in Masako Watanabe's *Kaiki Roman Kessakushu* (The Best Mystery Romances) from Kodansha FC Friend. Masako Watanabe debuted in 1952 with *Suama-chan* from Wakagi Shobo and is considered the first major female artist of boys' manga. She is a master of her craft and, now in her 70s, continues to draw actively today. I once had the opportunity to talk to her at the Asian Manga Summit. She told me that her family was poor when she first started drawing, so she wanted to depict an elegant world in her manga and lavished every luxury on her young female protagonists. She also talked about how she thought to twine flowers around panel borders and put stars in the characters' eyes to accentuate the luxuriousness of the art. In other words, two key defining features of shojo manga—the flowers around the panels and the stars in the eyes—were both invented by Masako Watanabe.

The protagonist of "The White Chameleon" is Daphne, a girl who yearns to be beautiful to woo the boy she secretly likes. When a white chameleon appears before her to grant her wish, she drinks the chameleon's blood and succeeds in becoming as beautiful as her older sister. But the beauty she gains turns out to be temporary and a sad imitation of her sister's. As the effect of the chameleon's blood fades, she discovers that she is gradually becoming more disfigured than she was before. She resorts to killing the chameleon to become even more beautiful, which has horrific consequences in the end.

What did Shiba-san want to convey to Sasayama-san through this manga? Maybe he wanted to tell the insecure Sasayama-san, "Beauty is only fleeting. If you get hung up on looks, tragedy awaits you." But if the good-looking Shiba-san had told him that directly, Sasayama-san would only have gotten angrier.

"A white chameleon is in its natural uncolored state, so it has the potential to change to any color it chooses. And you have the capacity to genuinely love shojo manga, Sasayama-san. You should admire that pure and 'uncolored' part of yourself more." Perhaps that's what Shiba-san wanted to convey by showing Sasayama-san this manga.

In this way, the circle of Kingyo regulars continues to grow. Perhaps you'd like to join that circle too! Kingyo Used Books is truly a place where wonderful manga and people come together.

This museum is featured in Chapter 26:
Kingyo Diaries (The Shiogama Episode)

The Katsuichi Nagai Manga Museum

Although there are a few museums devoted to mangaka, this is the only manga museum to honor an editor

Who was Katsuichi Nagai?

The setting for this chapter of *Kingyo Used Books* is the Katsuichi Nagai Manga Museum in Shiogama, Miyagi Prefecture. The museum was built to commemorate the achievements of Katsuichi Nagai, the founder of *Garo*, a magazine that must be mentioned in any discussion of postwar manga history.

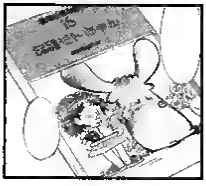
In recent years, museums collecting and exhibiting the works of mangaka have begun to pop up around Japan. But the Katsuichi Nagai Manga Museum is the only museum in the country honoring the achievements not of a mangaka, but of a manga editor. It's a testament to the tremendous legacy Nagai left behind. Nagai began his career publishing *kashihon manga* (loaner manga) after World War II while working as a street vendor and in the black market. He won initial acclaim for publishing the early works of Sanpei Shirato, like *Arashi no Ninja* (Storm Ninja), but left publishing temporarily due to an illness. Upon his return in 1964, he began publishing the manga magazine *Garo* at Seirindo. At this tiny publishing company, Nagai handled everything from marketing to sales. This helped turn *Garo* into a homegrown magazine unconstrained by profit margins, and Nagai succeeded in collecting top-notch manga titles. With Sanpei Shirato's popular *Kamui Den* (The Legend of Kamui) as its tentpole series, *Garo* published such masterpieces as Shigeru Mizuki's *Kitaro Yawa* (Kitaro Night Stories) and Yoshiharu Tsuge's short story *"Nejishiki"* (Screw-Style), boosting circulation exponentially and even prompting Shogakukan to offer to publish the magazine.

Garo is also responsible for introducing readers to the works of Takao Yaguchi, Hiroshi Masumura, Seiichi Hayashi, Ryoichi Ikegami, the trio of Shunichi Abe•Oji Suzuki•Masuzo Furukawa (known as the 1•2•3 Trio because their first names include the kanji for one, two and three), Shinji Nagashima, Kazuo Uemura, Yoshikazu Ebisu and Hinako Sugiura. Along with *COM* magazine, founded in 1967 by Osamu Tezuka's Mushi Productions, *Garo* became a pioneering force in the manga world. Many mangaka working today continue to look up to Nagai as a mentor because they still appreciate the early years when he took them under his wing both professionally and personally. You can read more about the history of *Garo* in *Garo Henshuucho* (Garo Editor) from Chikuma Bunko.

In this episode, there is a scene in which Natsuki's parents, in their younger days, argue over *Garo*. Natsuki's father, the son of the owner of Kingyo Used Books, dismisses manga as worthless, to which Natsuki's mother fires back, "The manga in here are works of art. What kind of idiot would mock such a beautiful method of self-expression?" This manga holds a special memory for both of them because it's responsible for bringing them together.

Actually, *Garo* played a role in my marriage to my current wife. Our first date, after moving out to Tokyo from Kumamoto as college kids, happened to be in front of Seirindo. At the time, the characters from *Kamui Den*, like Kamui and Shosuke, seemed to speak for our generation, and the company responsible for publishing *Kamui* was hallowed ground. The wood-and-mortar building containing the editorial offices stood before us. Although we never had the courage to go inside, we met in front of Seirindo many times to talk about manga and politics, only to fall in love and later marry. Over 30 years later, we continue to talk about manga while managing a manga bookstore together.

And so, for Natsuki's parents and for my wife and me, *Garo* continues to live on along with the unforgettable memories of our younger days.



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© 萩尾望都／小学館

This series is featured in Chapter 27:
An Odd Couple

Tottemo Shiawase Moto-chan (1 volume)

By Moto Hagio

Published by Shogakukan in 1977

This episode is about an unusual friendship between two people who love Kingyo dearly. Tsujimoto-kun and Sasayama-san. When they set out in search of an arsonist who's setting fire to the used bookstores around town, they discover curious drawings of a big-eared creature near the crime scenes. The drawings are of the title character from *Tottemo Shiawase Moto-chan* (A Very Happy Moto-chan).

Moto-chan is a strange olive-colored creature that flies with its enormous ears. The story of Moto-chan's odd friendship with Johnny Walker, this fantastical six-*koma* (six-panel) comic strip first appeared in the October 1972 issue of Shogakukan's *Bessatsu Shojo Friend* (Special Edition Shojo Friend) and ran until the July 1976 issue of *Olnsama* (Sun). Among the readers who discovered this manga as kids, there are many who have never forgotten its cozy tone and count *Moto-chan* as their favorite of Moto Hagio's many works. The 1977 tankobon of this manga from the *Meruhen Leaf Series* (Fairy Tale Leaf Series) is considered the rarest of Hagio's works; a fierce battle erupts on the rare occasions when we get copies in our store. But don't worry: you can also read *Moto-chan* in the Shogakukan Manga Bunko series.

A revolutionary figure in shojo manga, Moto Hagio pushed the boundaries of artistic expression through her ingenious stories, fundamentally superior sense of design, psychological rendering of characters, diversity of subject matter and overall literary excellence. She is often called the Osamu Tezuka of the shojo manga world.

Moto Hagio is a baby boomer like myself and is often mentioned as a member of the Forty-Niners or Year 24 Group. This group of female mangaka born around the year 1949 (Showa 24 in the Japanese calendar) includes Yasuko Aoike, Riyoko Ikeda, Keiko Takemiya, Yumiko Oshima, Toshie Kihara, Ryoko Yamagishi, Minori Kimura, Nanae Sasaya and Mineko Yamada, many of whom continue to draw manga today. The Forty-Niners are said to have blown the doors off the shojo manga world, attracting male readers who previously had shied away from girls' manga.

Although Tokiwa-so, the apartment building where classic shonen mangaka like Osamu Tezuka, Fujiko Fujio, Fujio Akatsuka, Shotaro Ishinomori and Hiro-o Terada all worked, is well known to manga fans, few people know that there was also such a place where shojo mangaka met. The Forty-Niners gathered at an apartment shared by Moto Hagio and Keiko Takemiya, where they talked manga and worked collaboratively, forming the most cutting-edge group of manga artists of the era. Called the "Oizumi Salon" because the apartment was located in Nerima Ward in Oizumi, it had a tremendous influence on the shojo mangaka known as the Post-Forty-Niners. No doubt the Oizumi Salon was a place where manga-lovers could meet casually in the same way the characters gather at Kingyo.

Incidentally, there's a scene in this episode where Tsujimoto-kun falls asleep on Sasayama-san's back, despite suffering from insomnia. Although he's often rude, he's really a sweet, manga-loving kid. And Sasayama-san seems to be hard on others at first, but he turns out to be a perfectly charming (more or less) manga-loving guy. Being around Kingyo seems to have the strange power to soothe and comfort people. The people who come together at Kingyo must be very happy, just like Moto-chan!

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This manga is featured in Chapter 28:
Tomorrow's Visitor

Zettai Anzen Kamisori (1 volume)

By Fumiko Takano

Published by Hakusensha in 1982

The manga featured in this chapter is Fumiko Takano's *Zettai Anzen Kamisori* (Absolute Safety Razor), published by Hakusensha. Takano, a leading figure in the manga New Wave movement, brought about a revolutionary change in visual expression. Along with Katsuhiro Otomo, Hisashi Eguchi, Noma Sabea and Yosuke Takahashi, she left a huge mark on the manga world.

From the late 1970s to the early 1980s, a number of magazines launched that were somewhere between *dojinshi* (self-published comics) and *shogyoushi* (commercial magazines), such as *Manga Kisou Tengai* (Out of This World Manga), *Rakugakikan*, *JUNE*, *Comic Again* and *Mankancho*. These magazines featured innovative methods of expression, manga titles that ignored commercial concerns and new mangaka with unique styles. The 1980s was a decade when manga artists, publishers and fans truly shone.

Takano made a name for herself by publishing in most of the aforementioned magazines. These short stories are collected in her 1982 debut tankobon, *Zettai Anzen Kamisori* (Absolute Safety Razor), currently available from Hakusensha. Among them is "*Tanabe no Tsuru*," published in the inaugural issue of *Mankincho* in 1982, a masterpiece that left a huge impression on readers.

The story follows Tsuru (Crane), an 82-year-old woman who believes she's the same bob-haired little girl she was in her youth. As the story unfolds, we observe Tsuru's internal world, in which she appears as a little girl, even as we realize she has all the experience of her 82 years in the external or "real" world. The conflict between these two worlds is deeply moving. Although philosophical, the story is rendered with Takano's uniquely light touch.

In this episode, a young magician comes across Takano's story at Kingyo, providing him with the inspiration for a new show to present at a nursing home. The biggest difference between children and the elderly is that the elderly have the experience of the many years they've lived. Even at 82, Tsuru still has the heart of a little girl. And so it occurs to the magician that perhaps the elderly might enjoy recapturing the heart of childhood.

That's where the power of manga comes in. In the field of geriatric psychology, music therapy is used to revitalize the elderly through the music they used to sing and play in their youth. Perhaps getting the eldery at the nursing home to read the manga they used to read as children works as a kind of comics therapy.

Once the magician casts a therapeutic spell over his audience, lo and behold, it's their turn to cast a spell over him! The story ends happily with the world-weary magician energized by their stories and experiences. And so the greatest magician in this episode is really Kingyo Used Books!

The information in this volume is current up to November 2006. This includes all manga footnotes and all the columns comprising the Kingyo Used Books Notebook.

Thanks to every creator, publisher and property owner of manga titles mentioned in this volume for your understanding and cooperation.

Information provided by Gendai Manga Toshokan/Kirara Bunko. Additional research in cooperation with the Katsuichi Nagai Manga Museum.

KINGYO USED BOOKS

Volume 4

VIZ Signature Edition

Story and Art by SEIMU YOSHIZAKI

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Kingyo = Goldfish

Seimu Yoshizaki was born in Kanagawa, Japan. She made her manga debut with *Aka-chan to Tenshi* (Baby and Angel) in 1989. Aside from *Kingyo Used Books*, which is currently being serialized in *IKKI* magazine, she is the creator of many other titles, including *Telekinesis (Yamanote TV Kinema Room)*, *Ugokashiya*, *Kaban Toshokan* and *Deka Girl*.

This book reads from right to left.

Kingyo Used Books 4

In this volume:

	A disaffected boy searches for something to put a spark in his tedious life...and finds a manga that puts the fear of the devil in him.
	A guy and girl can't find anything they have in common—until they discover a mutual love of a certain gender-bending martial arts manga.
	After a schlubby nerd loses his cool at the handsome manga freaks at Kingyo, a classic horror manga teaches him that beauty is only skin deep.
	Natsuki's search for her missing mother takes her to a manga museum that has special meaning for her parents.
	Someone is setting fire to used bookstores, and Kingyo may be next—unless two mismatched manga fans can stop the arsonist!

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